CHAPTER 29: ALL OVER

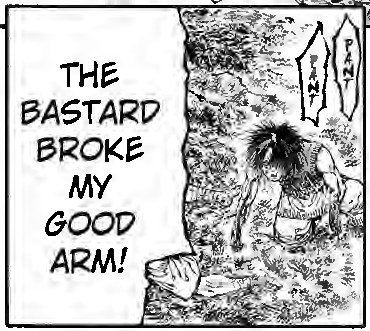
MangaBox

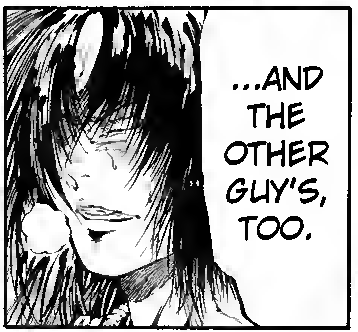
...AND THE WAR WAS JUST STARTING.

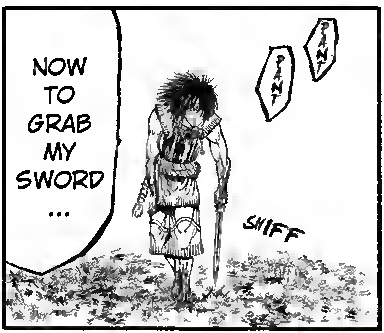
I WAITED FOR 20 YEARS ...

THIS IS THE END.

TRANSLATION BY AARON DODSON
ADAPTATION BY JESSI NUSS (JVTA)
SKY JAPAN, INC







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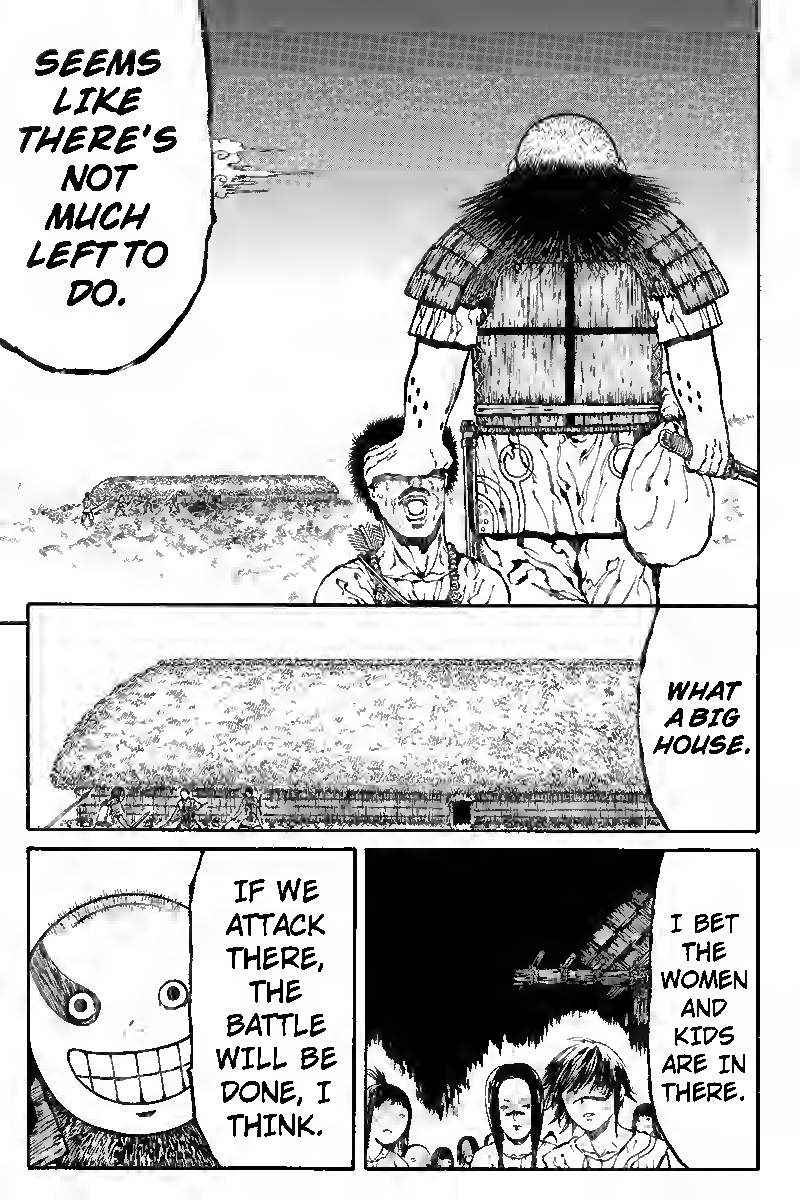
I'M NOT DONE YET!
WHAM
HRAH!
AGH!
HUH ?!

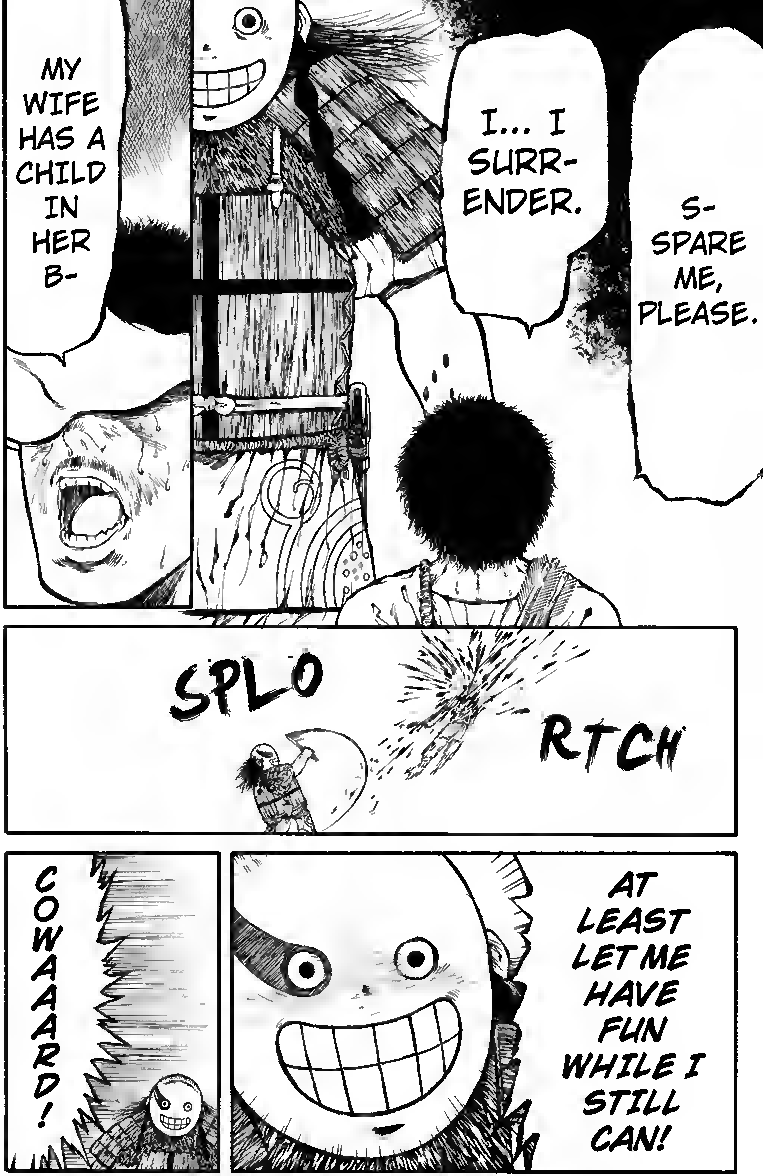
I'M NOT DONE YET!
ING
SPR
I TOLD YOU ABOUT KONZE, THE HERO FROM THE WAR 20 YEARS AGO, RIGHT?
HE WAS STRONG.
TOO STRONG.
STRONG ENOUGH TO STRIKE FEAR INTO EVEN MIGHTY NAGASUNE VILLAGE!

A MAN WHO IS TOO STRONG MAKES EVEN HIS BRETHREN WARY.
TOBA, BROTHER TO THE LOWER CHIEF, MARRIED SAZUMA FROM THE LAKESIDE VILLAGE TO MAINTAIN PEACE.
AFTER KONZE'S RAMPAGE, THE LAKESIDE VILLAGE WATCHED THE UPPER AND LOWER VILLAGES CAREFULLY.
SANSE, YOU ARE FAMED FOR THE FEATS OF STRENGTH YOU PERFORM AT FESTIVALS.
OOOH!

A MAN WHO IS TOO STRONG MAKES EVEN HIS BRETHREN WARY!
THE UPPER VILLAGE WAS WATCHING YOU!
WE WERE TOLD ...
IF WE COULDN'T BEAT YOU, WE MUST ROB YOU OF YOUR STRENGTH!
GRAH!
SLAM
NRYAAAH!

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY AROUND WITH A TWISTED IDIOT LIKE YOU!
JUST DIE ALR-EADY!
LET GO OF ME!

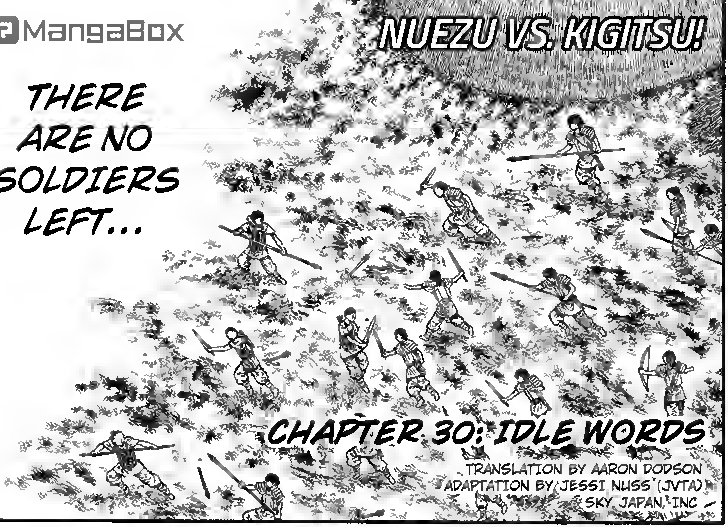

SEEMS LIKE THERE'S NOT MUCH LEFT TO DO.
WHAT A BIG HOUSE.
IF WE ATTACK THERE, THE BATTLE WILL BE DONE, I THINK.
I BET THE WOMEN AND KIDS ARE IN THERE.


S-SPARE ME, PLEASE.
I... I SURR-ENDER.
MY WIFE HAS A CHILD IN HER B-
SPLO
RTCH
AT LEAST LET ME HAVE FUN WHILE I STILL CAN!
COWAAARD!

WHY DON'T YOU FIGHT WITH HONOR?!
WHY DID YOU KILL HIM?!
WHY?!
PLAYING WITH IRON FEELS GOOD!
IRON IS POW-ER!
THIS ENDS NOW!
A-ALL THIS... FOR YOUR OWN GREED...

I AM ONE OF THE LOWER VILLAGE'S THREE STRONGEST MEN!
MY NAME IS NUEZU!
...WHAT REAL POWER IS!
SPRING
I'LL SHOW YOU...
SWORD #8: NUEZU
SWORD #3: KIGITSU
THE POWER OF FIGHT-ING FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS!
MORE FIGHTS TO COME!

MangaBox



CHAPTER 30: IDLE WORDS

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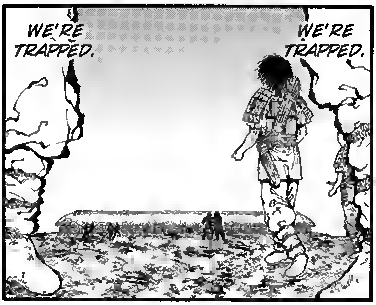
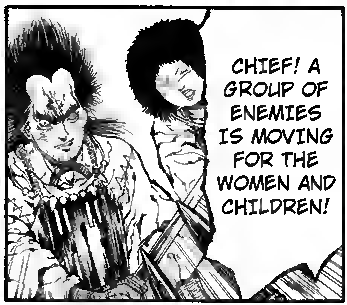
ADAPTATION BY JESSI NUSS (JVTA)
SKY JAPAN, INC.





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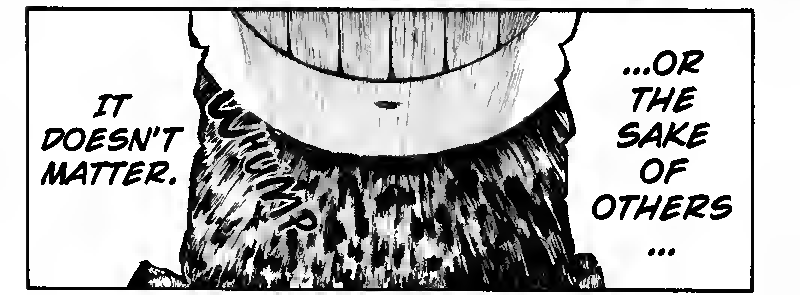
AH!
SOLDIERS AREN'T THE ONLY VICTIMS OF BATTLE!
BOOM
CLATTER
CLATTER

NOOOOOOO!
N-

FIGHT FOR YOUR OWN SAKE...
WHUMP


IT DOESN'T MATTER.
GURGLE
...OR THE SAKE OF OTHERS ...

THE STRONG ARE STRONG.
THE WEAK ARE WEAK.
WHUMP
REASONS DON'T CHANGE THINGS.
NYAAAAAH!
I'M TIRED OF IDLE WORDS! COME FIGHT ME!
NO ONE HAS TAKEN NUEZU'S SUZUNARI SWORD!
GIVE ME SOME FUN!
SPLAT

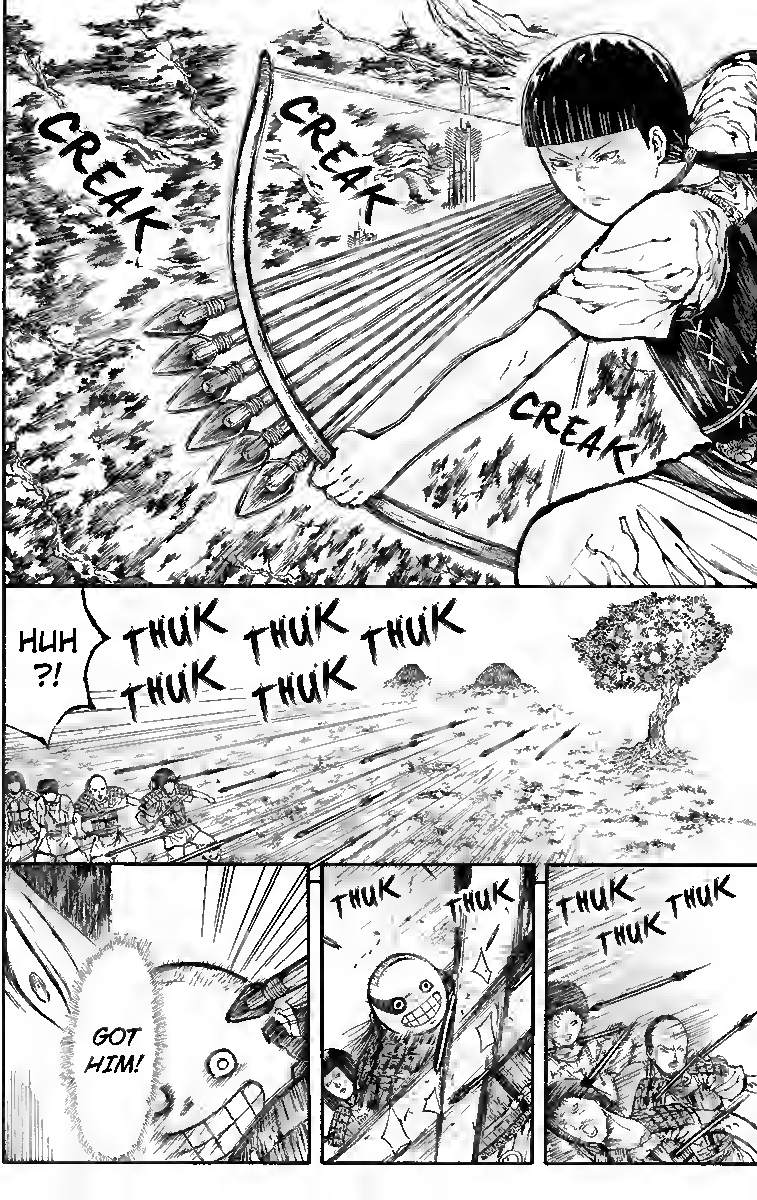
THE BATTLE WILL END IF NO ONE DOES!
IS THERE ANYBODY LEFT THAT WANTS TO FIGHT ME?
WHUMP
I WAS THE OLDEST BOY IN HIDING.
WOMEN AND CHILDREN ALL AROUND.
A SWORD ...
...SAT RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.
I...
I LOOKED OVER AND NOTICED MY MOM WAS INJURED BY FLYING DEBRIS.
EVERY-ONE'S EYES TURNED TOWARD ME.

THUK
THUK
THUK
THUK
THUK
THUK
AH ?
SLUMP
AH ?
KIGITSU, STAY DOWN -TO- EARTH.
TOO MUCH FOOLING AROUND IS NOT HEALTHY.

LET US END THIS BATTLE.
PICK UP THE SUZUNARI SWORD.
THE WAR IS NOT OVER YET.
THERE ARE OTHER PALE SEA VILLAGES.
HUH? BUT I WAS STILL HAVING FUN!
OH, DEAR. ONE OF THE ARROWS I FIRED EARLIER STRUCK AND KILLED YOUR MOTHER.
MOT-HER!
MOT-HER ...

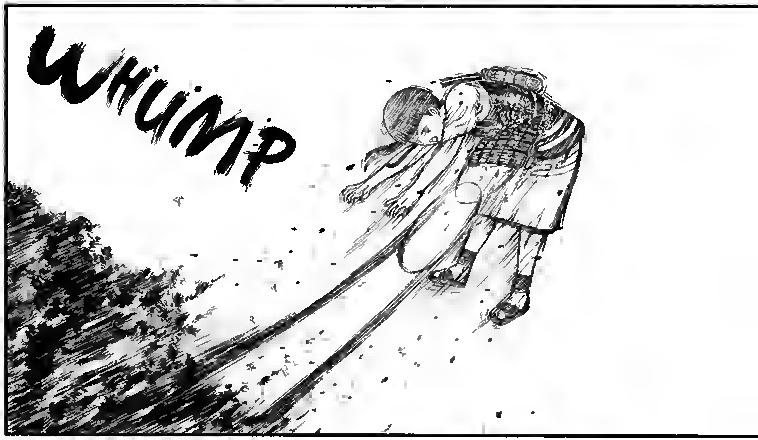
I KNOW HOW YOU MUST FEEL!
SOB
IT IS A DEEP WELL OF MISERY!
IF I THINK OF MY OWN MOTHER DYING...
...I...
...I...
I SAID THAT HATE BEARS NO FRUIT...
...AND WE SHOULD END THIS BATTLE ...
...BUT I WILL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO AVENGE HER!
COME AND FIGHT ME!
ARE YOU NOT OVER THE SHOCK YET?

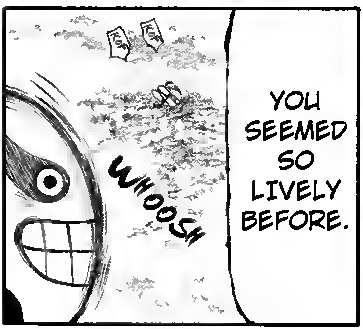
I KNOW HOW THAT MUST FEEL, TOO.
SOB
YEAH ...
TR-UST ME.
REVENGE DOES NO GOOD, AND YOUR MOTHER WISHES FOR YOUR HAPPINESS.
I WILL NOT TAKE YOUR LIFE THIS DAY.
AYE
WE ARE DONE HERE.
SEIZE THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

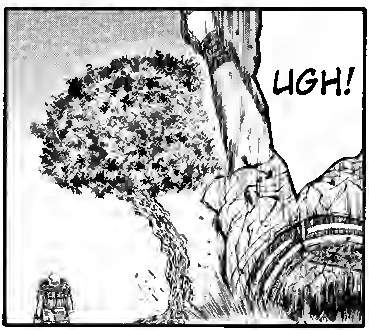

CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
HUH ?!
THUK THUK THUK
THUK THUK
GOT HIM!
THUK THUK
THUK THUK THUK

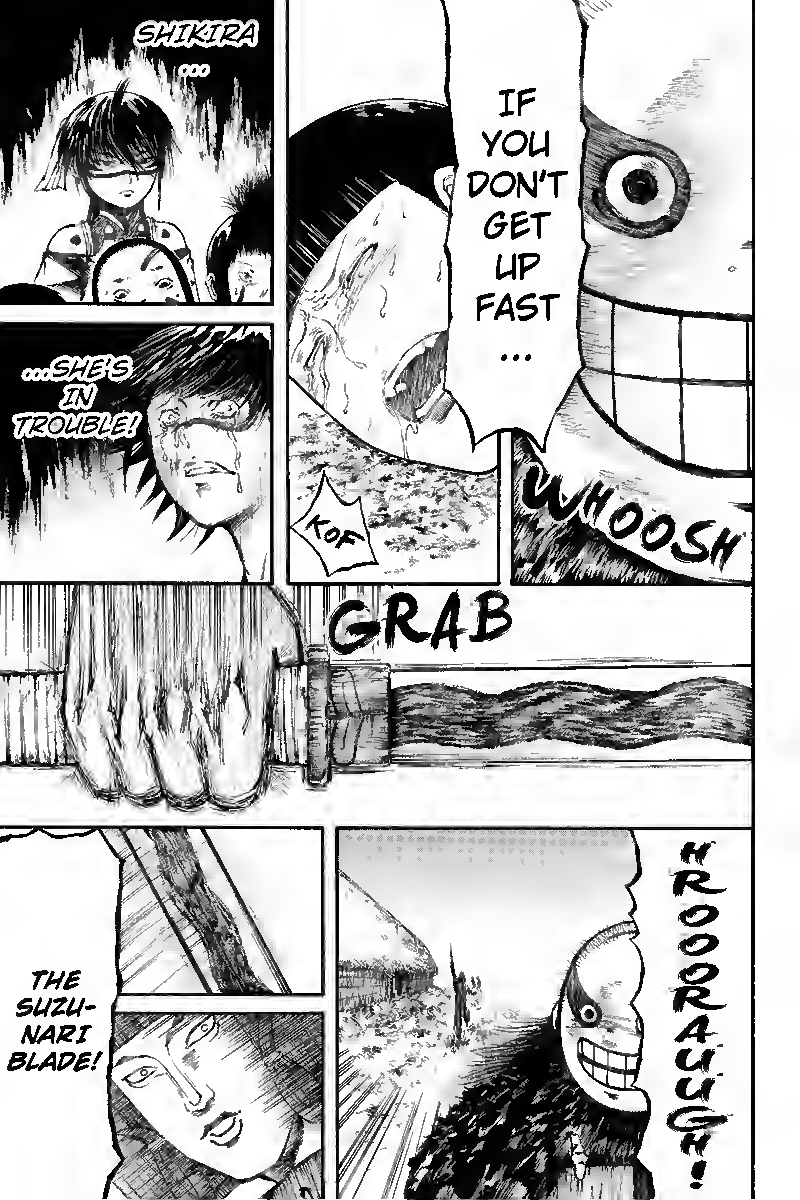
PINK
OW!
PLUCK!
PLUCK!
PLUCK
HO HO!
SPRING
HUH ?
I HIT HIM IN THE HEAD!
RIP
HE'S A MON-STER!
ARROWS DON'T FAZE HIM!
PINK
PINK
OW.
PINK
OW.
OW.

VOOOSH


WHUMP

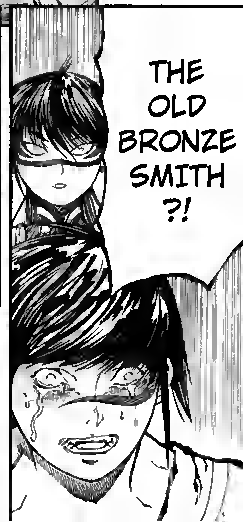

WHOOSH
YOU SEEMED SO LIVELY BEFORE.

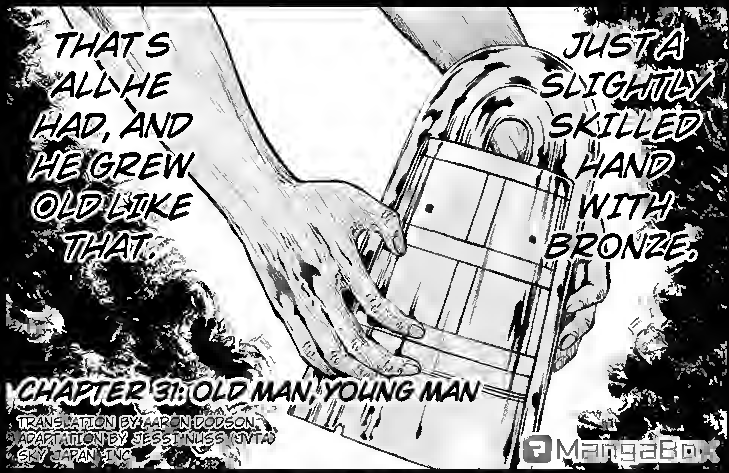

UGH!


SHIKIRA
...
IF YOU DON'T GET UP FAST ...
WHOOSH
...SHE'S IN TROUBLE!
KOF
GRAB
KROOORAUUGH!
THE SUZU-NARI BLADE!

VWISH
VWISH
NRAAAAAAH!

OLD BRONZE SMITH
SWORD #8:
NUEZU'S TORCH HAS BEEN TAKEN UP!


THE OLD BRONZE SMITH ?!


THAT'S ALL HE HAD, AND HE GREW OLD LIKE THAT.
JUST A SLIGHTLY SKILLED HAND WITH BRONZE.
CHAPTER 31: OLD MAN, YOUNG MAN
TRANSLATION BY AARON DODSON
ADAPTATION BY JESS THUSS (JVTA)
SKY JAPAN INC.
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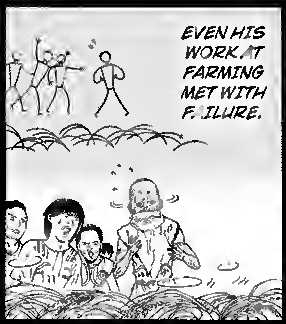
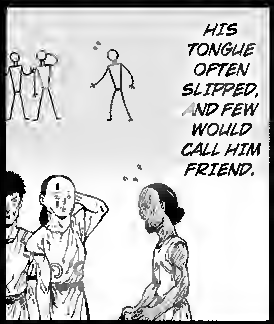
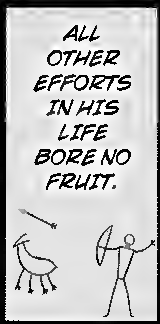

EVEN HIS WORK AT FARMING MET WITH F. ILURE.


HIS TONGUE OFTEN SLIPPED, AND FEW WOULD CALL HIM FRIEND.


ALL OTHER EFFORTS IN HIS LIFE BORE NO FRUIT.

THAT WAS ALL.

THAT WAS ALL.

...BUT HAD NO EXPERIENCE OF HIS OWN.
HE GAVE ADVICE ON LOVE TO OTSUCHI ...

THAT'S NICE.
BRONZE BELLS CALL SPIRITS, RIGHT?
A FEW WORDS ...
...SPILLED FROM THE LADS LIPS...
...BUT CAME FROM HIS HEART.

HWRAAOOOAGH!
WHOOF
WHOOF
STOP! GET AWAY, OLD MAN!
CLING
CLING
CLING
TING

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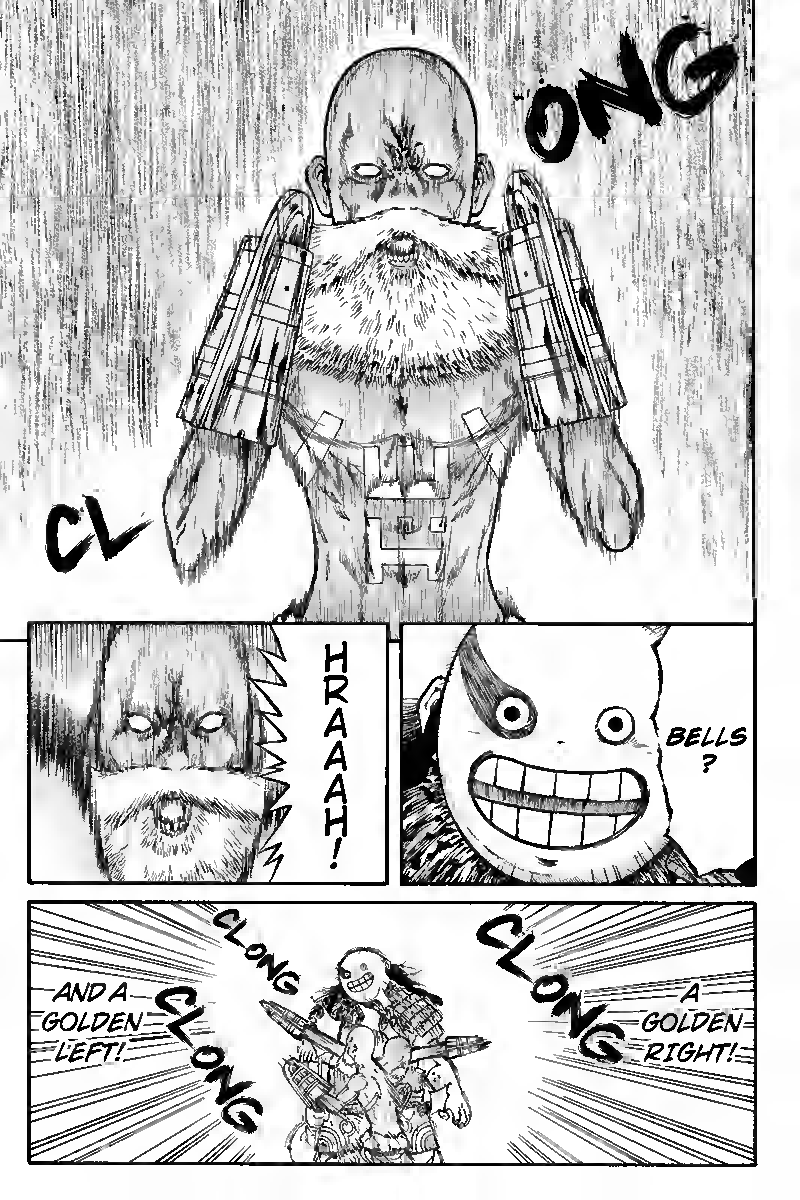
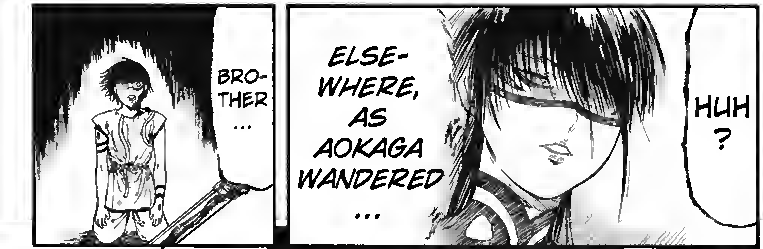

ONG
CL
HRAAAH!
BELLS ?
CLONG
CLONG
CLONG
AND A GOLDEN LEFT!
A GOLDEN RIGHT!

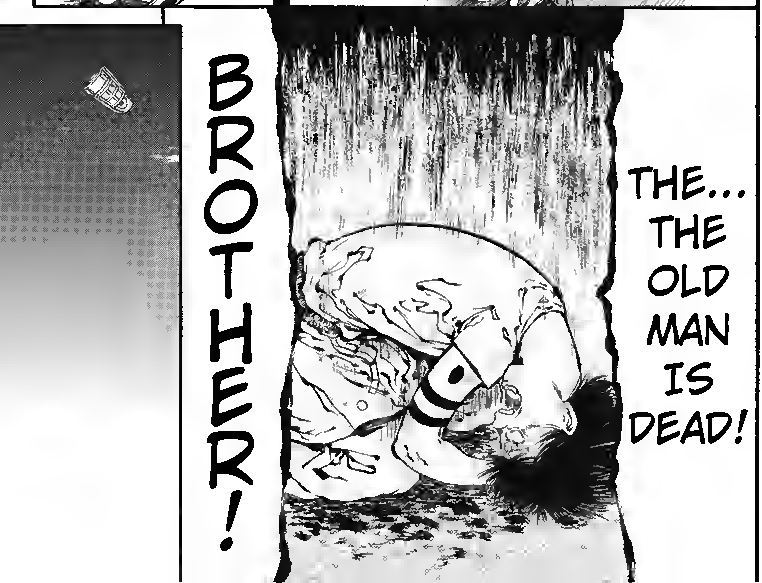
THE BOY'S FATHER WAS CALLED A HERO.
THE BOY WAS ALWAYS BLOODIED AND BRUISED.
BUT WITHOUT BATTLE, HE WAS JUST A OVERLY VIOLENT MAN.
...HE JUST KEPT IT INSIDE.
WHEN HE WAS WRONGED ...
HE HAD NEVER FOUGHT IN HIS LIFE.

BUT...
BUT...
THAT'S NICE.
THE OLD MAN HAD FOUGHT.
THAT THAT IS WHY...
THE OLD MAN HAD EXPLODED WITH PASSION.

SHLUCK
YEAH, I'M BORED.

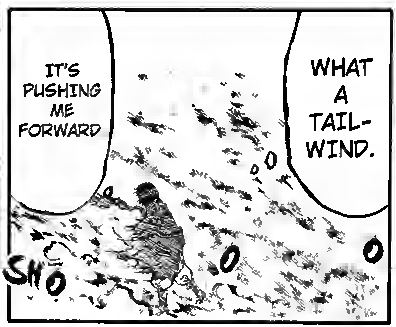
O-OH? THAT'S TOO BAD.
NO, MY BROTHER IS STILL OUT.
H-HAS AOKAGA COME HOME YET?
THIS OLD MAN WORKS BY DAZE.
I-I WANT TO W-WORK WITH OTSUCHI'S BROTHER AOKAGA, YOU SEE.
I-I'M JUST AN OLD MAN WHO FIDDLES WITH BRONZE.


BRO-THER ...
ELSE-WHERE, AS AOKAGA WANDERED ...
HUH ?


BROTHER!
THE... THE OLD MAN IS DEAD!

BRONZE BELLS CALL SPIRITS, RIGHT?

CLOOOONG



WHAT IS ALL THAT NOISE?
WAHAH
CLONK
WHUMP
TANG
EEEK
CLANG
THUMP
...
...THE OLD BRONZE SMITH IS OKAY.
I HOPE ...
DID THE BELL CALL?

AT THE SAME TIME, AKOYA WAS IN DANGER AND CRIED FOR HELP.
A WIND BLEW ACROSS THE BATTLE-FIELD.
WAS IT A DIVINE WIND?

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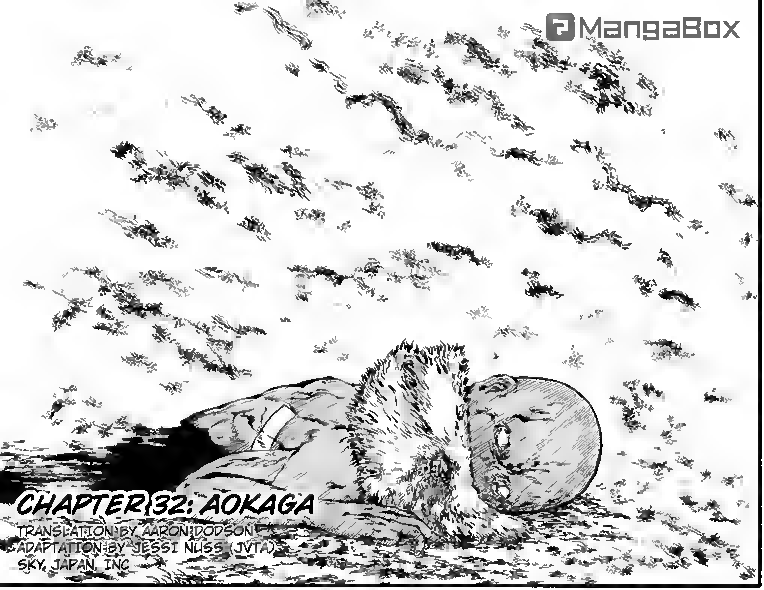

CHAPTER 32: AOKAGA

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ADAPTATION BY JESSI NUSS (JVTA)
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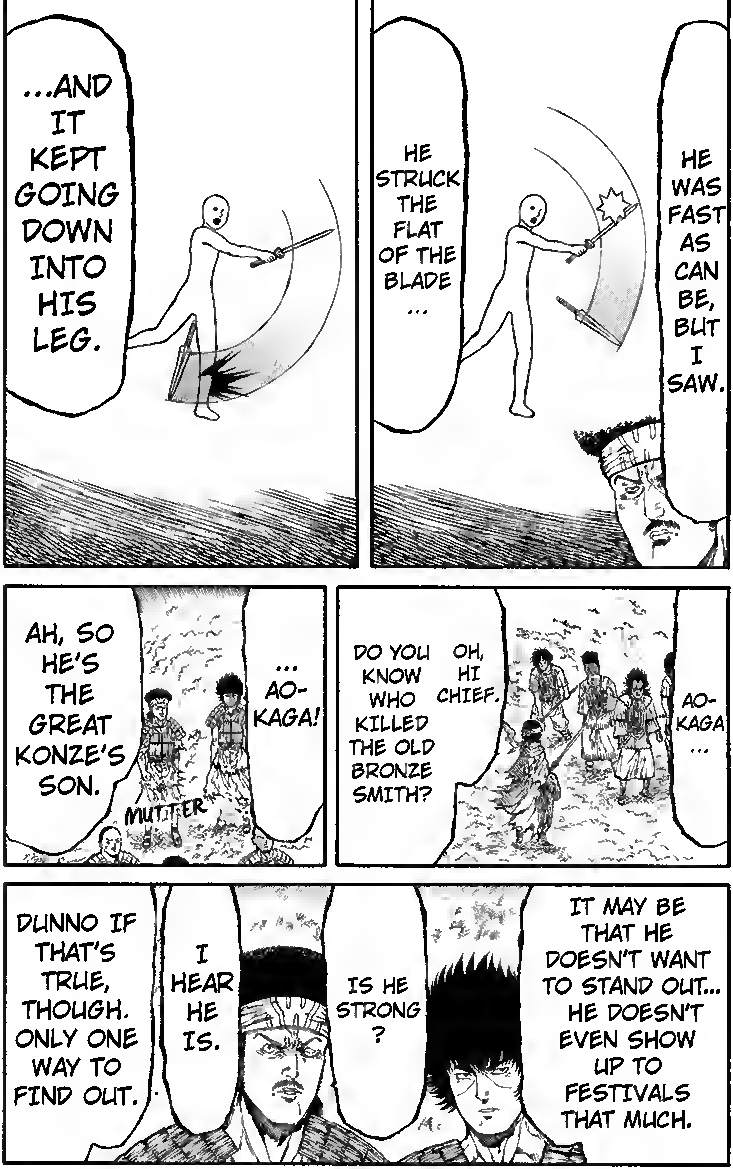
THE LOWER CHIEF IS MULE STUBBORN.
SHOOOO
SHISH
WHACK
CLING
ARE THOSE UPPER VILLAGE WEAPONS?
THEY MUST HAVE TAKEN THEM FROM DEAD SOLDIERS AT THE FESTIVAL.
STOP RUNNING LIKE A DEVIL IS ON YOUR HEELS!
HUH?! HEY! WAIT!
SHUNK
THEN MAYBE WE SHOULD FIGHT HIM.
HEY, 'SCUSE ME.

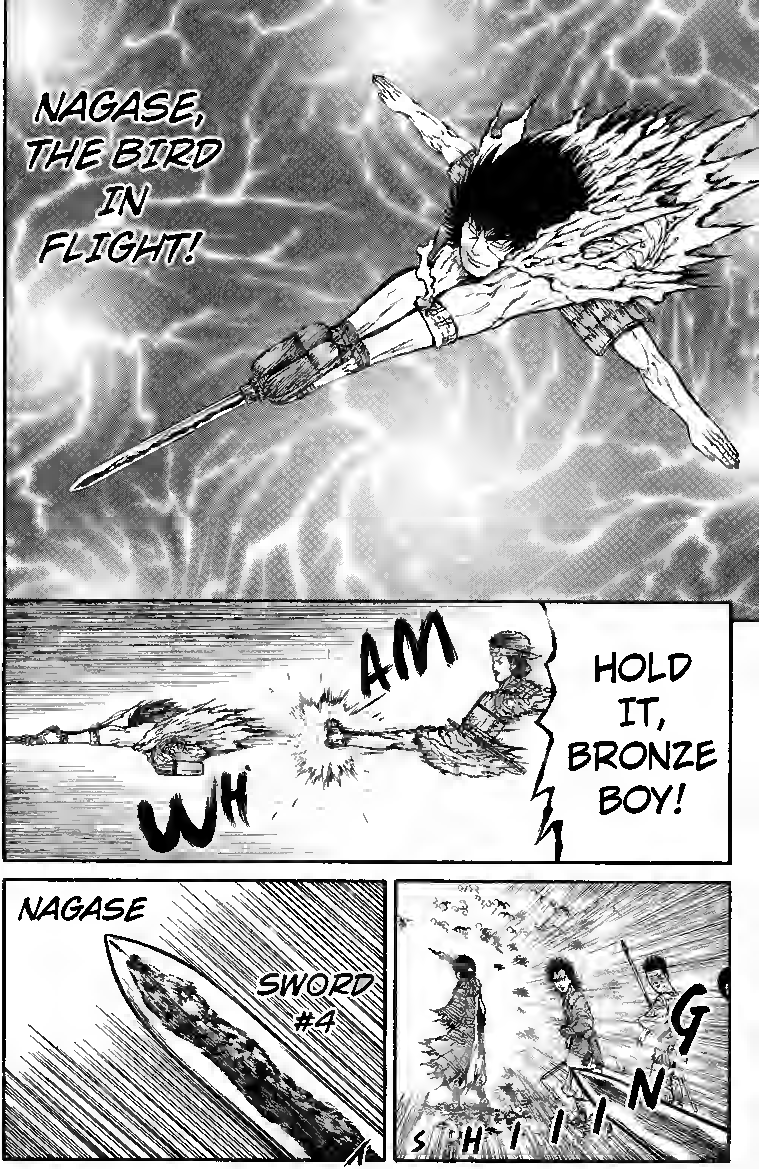
DOES ANYONE HERE KNOW WHO KILLED THIS OLD MAN?
GLANCE
THAT'S A NO?
... UH?
HEY! HE'S A LOWER VILLAGER!
HEY, 'SCUSE ME, GUYS...

KA-CHANG
GRA-AGH! NYAH!
HUH?!
... DID YOU CATCH THAT?
IS THAT BRONZE?
DID HE BLOCK UPPER VILLAGE IRON USING BRONZE?


HE WAS FAST AS CAN BE, BUT I SAW.
HE STRUCK THE FLAT OF THE BLADE ...
...AND IT KEPT GOING DOWN INTO HIS LEG.
AO-KAGA ...
OH, HI CHIEF.
DO YOU KNOW WHO KILLED THE OLD BRONZE SMITH?
... AO-KAGA!
MUTTER
AH, SO HE'S THE GREAT KONZE'S SON.
IT MAY BE THAT HE DOESN'T WANT TO STAND OUT... HE DOESN'T EVEN SHOW UP TO FESTIVALS THAT MUCH.
IS HE STRONG ?
I HEAR HE IS.
DUNNO IF THAT'S TRUE, THOUGH. ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.

NO NEWS.
NO NEWS.
NO NEWS.
H-HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN IN THE GREAT HOUSE WITH THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN.
THE ONE WHO KILLED HIM SHOULD BE AROUND THERE.
THA-NKS.
OH.
DO YOU WANT TO COME ALONG, CHIEF?

NO WAY.
ARE YOU JUST GONNA LET HIM GO?
STEP
THEN WE'LL TAKE HIM OUT WITH OUR FASTEST MOVE!
HE'S GOT SPEED AND SKILL.
BUT YOU SAW WHAT HE DID.
SHI
NK
SHI
NG
F W ISH


NAGASE, THE BIRD IN FLIGHT!
WH
AM
HOLD IT, BRONZE BOY!
NAGASE
SWORD #4
S H I I I N G

CLA
NG
I'M IN A BIT OF A RUSH.
SORRY.

SH
UCK
NUH... UNGH ...?
THE FLESH UNDER THE JAW...
RIP
RIP
...IS SO VERY SOFT!

SPL
AT
N-NAGASE! W-WHAT HAPPENED!? I-IS IT TIME FOR YOUR DEATH POEM?
RAN
UGH
RAU
GH!
JI... JI...SH
KRAN...JEN... IGH...
(THIS TRANSIENT LIFE...)

KER-
SPLULCH
H-HE'S BUTCHERING NAGASE!
SPLULCH SPLULCH SPLULCH
SPLULCH SPLULCH SPLULCH
SO CAN I GO NOW?
SPLULCH
P-PLE-ASE DO!
SPLULCH

CHAPTER 33: KIGITSU

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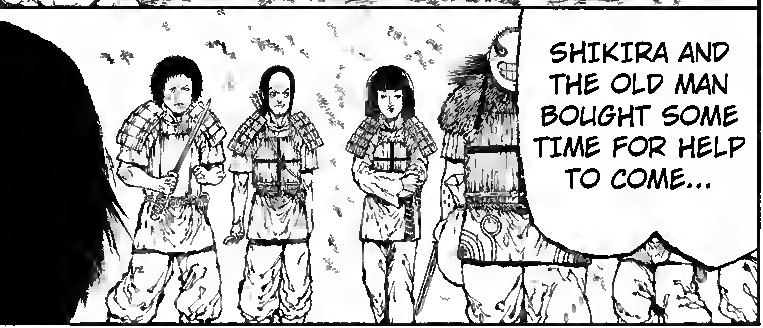
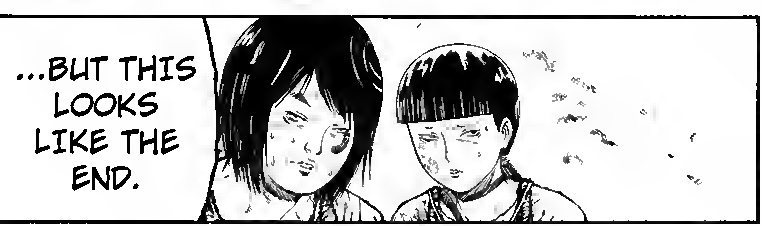
ADAPTATION BY: JESSI NUSS, (JVTA)
SKY JAPAN, INC.





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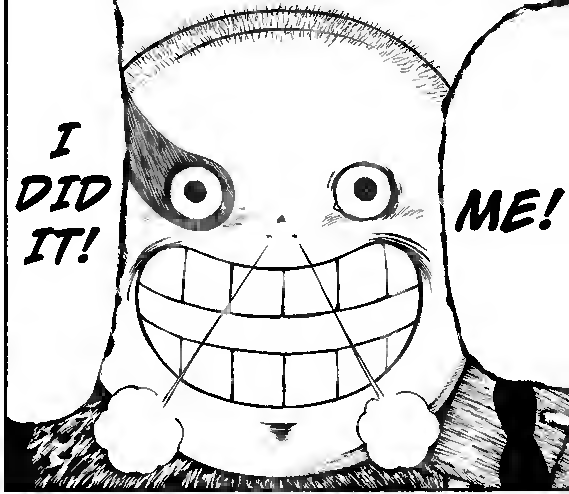
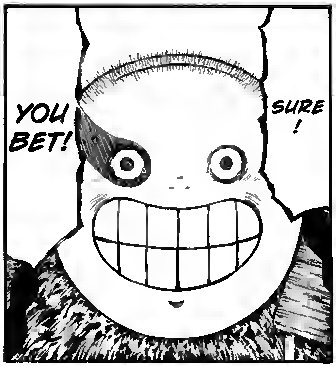
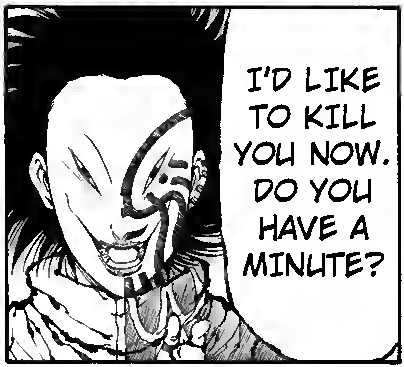
HUH?
SCUSE ME!
B-BRO-THER ?!
DO YOU KNOW WHO DID THIS?
AO-KAGA ?!

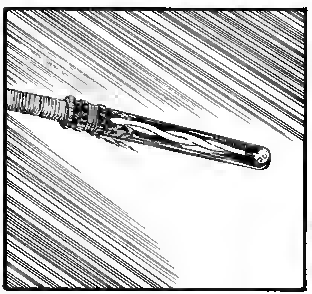
N-NAGA-SE...
NAGASE IS DEAD.
HOW CAN THAT BE?!
WOW!
SO WHO DID THIS?
THAT AOKAGA FLOWS LIKE THE WIND!
BUT HE KILLS LIKE A BEAST!

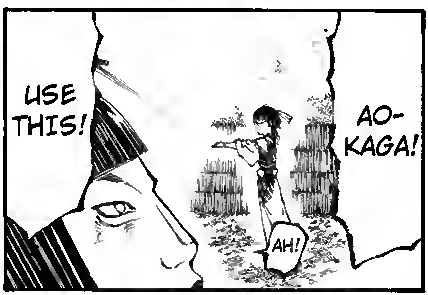
OH.


I DID IT!
ME!


YOU BET!
SURE!

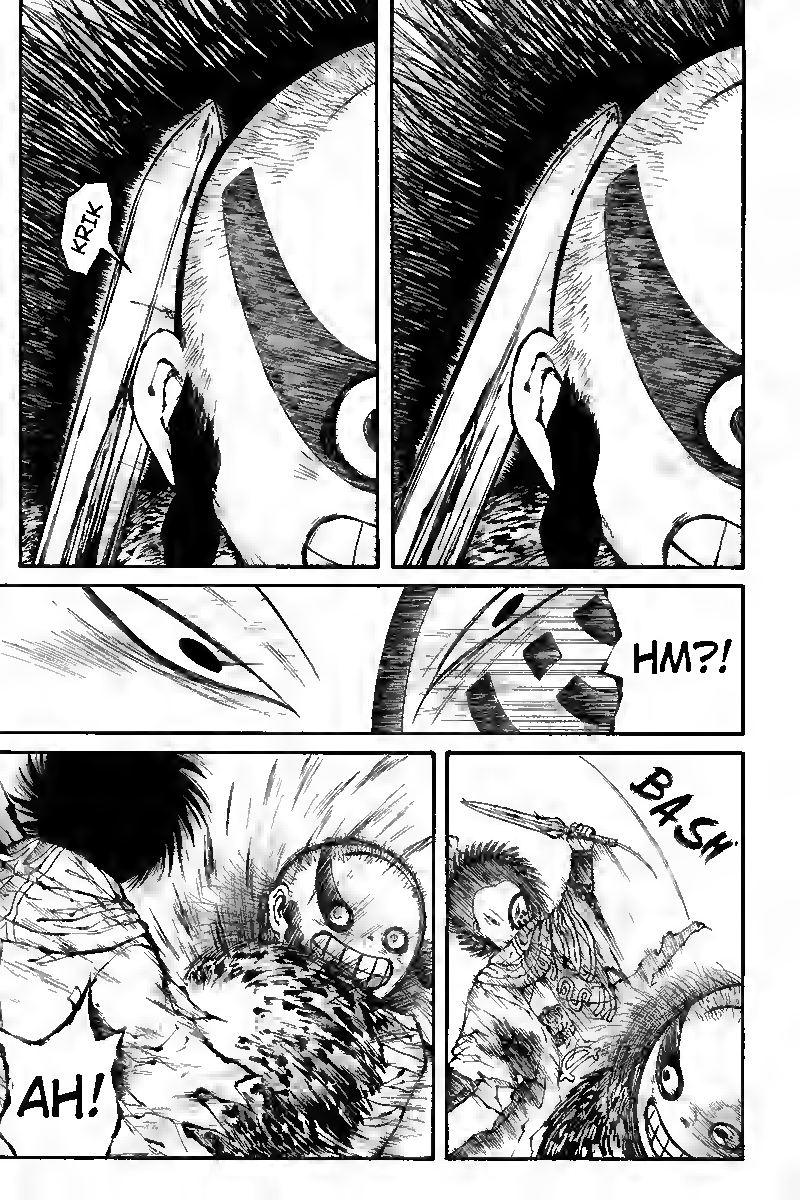

I'D LIKE TO KILL YOU NOW. DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?



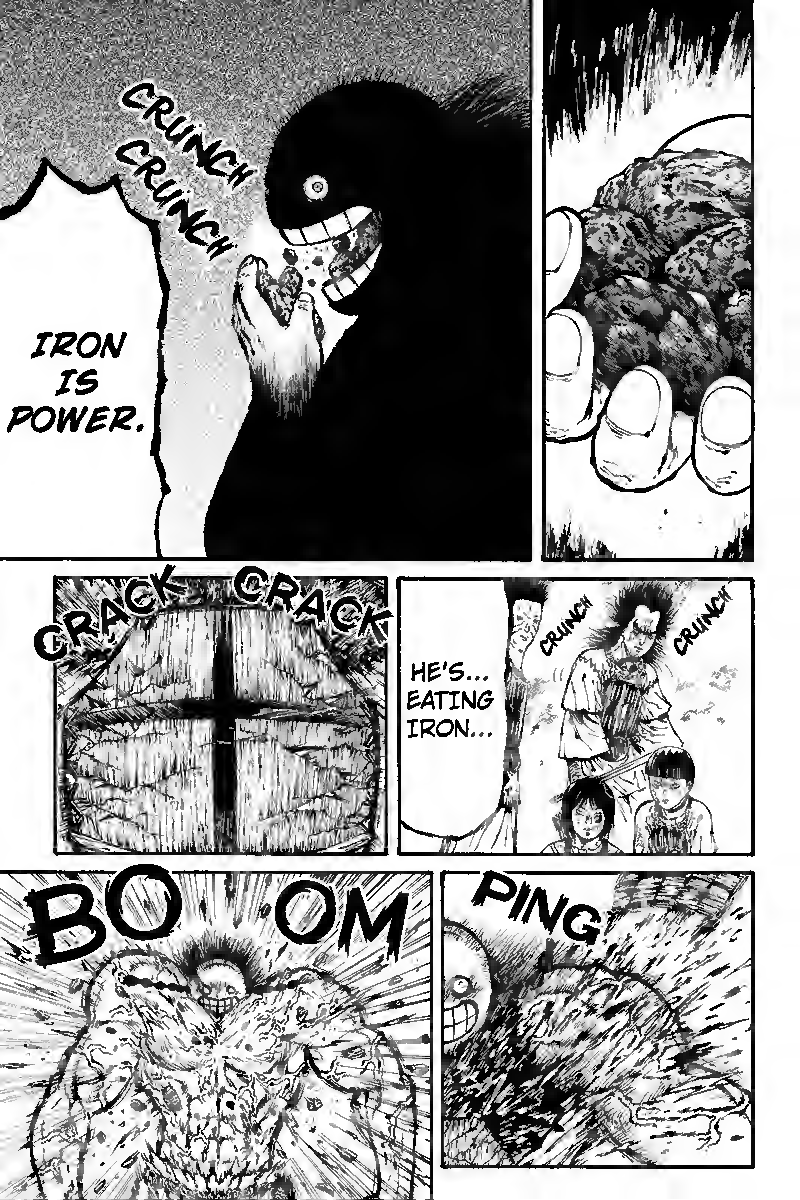

USE THIS!
AO-KAGA!
AH!

TOSS
WHAP
HEY!
HUH?
WHAP
SPRING

I'LL KILL HIM WITH BRONZE!
WOOSH
HA!
BOOM
HO HO!
WAIT! AOKAGA, THAT MAN IS...!
HE CAN EVEN DODGE KIGITSU!


KRIK
HM?!
BASH
AH!

WHU
MPH
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
IRON IS POWER.
IRON IS POWER.
RATTLE
RATTLE
HE'S HARDER THAN BRONZE? IS HE A MONSTER?
YOU JUMPED BACK, DIDN'T YOU?
THAT FELT SOFT.


CRUNCH
CRUNCH
IRON
IS
POWER.
CRACK
CRACK
HE'S...
EATING
IRON...
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
BO
OM
PING

I BUILT UP THIS PHYSIQUE BY EATING IRON EVERY DAY.
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
SO IRON IS GOOD FOR YOU.
I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND.
THAT'S A BAD IDEA!
AO-KAGA!
YOU NEED TO USE IRON!
BRONZE WON'T HURT HIM!

MIND YOUR OWN AFF-AIRS, TSU-KUSO!
TWITCH
NOW HE'S BACKING OFF!
SWISH
EYES!
EARS!
ZIFF
SO I NEEDED TO LEARN YOUR STYLE BEFORE ATTACKING!
BRONZE CAN BREAK EVEN UPPER VILLAGE IRON IF YOU STRIKE IN THE RIGHT WAY.

YOU FEINT WITH A SLASH, THEN SLAM INTO YOUR FOE!
BO
OF
AGH!
YOU HAVE TO FIGHT TO SAVE YOUR WEAPON!
YOUR WEAPON WON'T HELP!
MY BODY CAN BREAK BRONZE AS WELL AS IRON IF I USE IT RIGHT!
NAGASE ISN'T HERE, SO KIGITSU IS BETTER OFF ALONE.
STAY BACK! HE'S MINE!
THIS IS FOR NAG-ASE!
NICE WORK, KIGITSU! LET ME LEND A HAND!

IF HE INSISTS ON FIGHTING WITH BRONZE...
AND HE'S GONE BERSERK.
HE WON'T EVEN LISTEN TO ME.
A... AOKAGA... AOKAGA...
GARAAANG
GARAAANG

AOKAGA...
AOKAGA
AOKAGA
T-THE OLD BRONZE SMITH?

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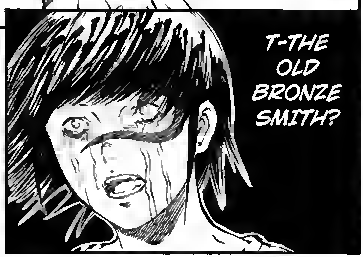
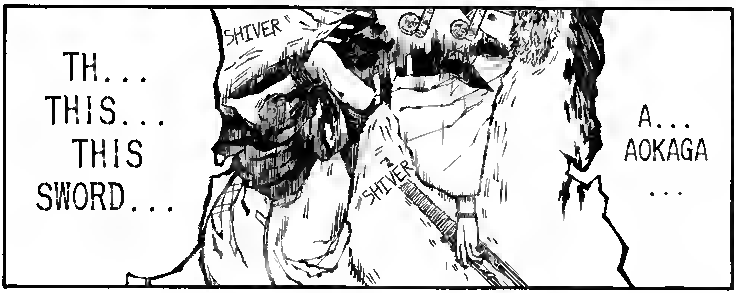
CHAPTER 34: SEANCE

TRANSLATION BY AARON DODSON
ADAPTATION BY JESSI NUSS (JVTA)
SKY JAPAN INC





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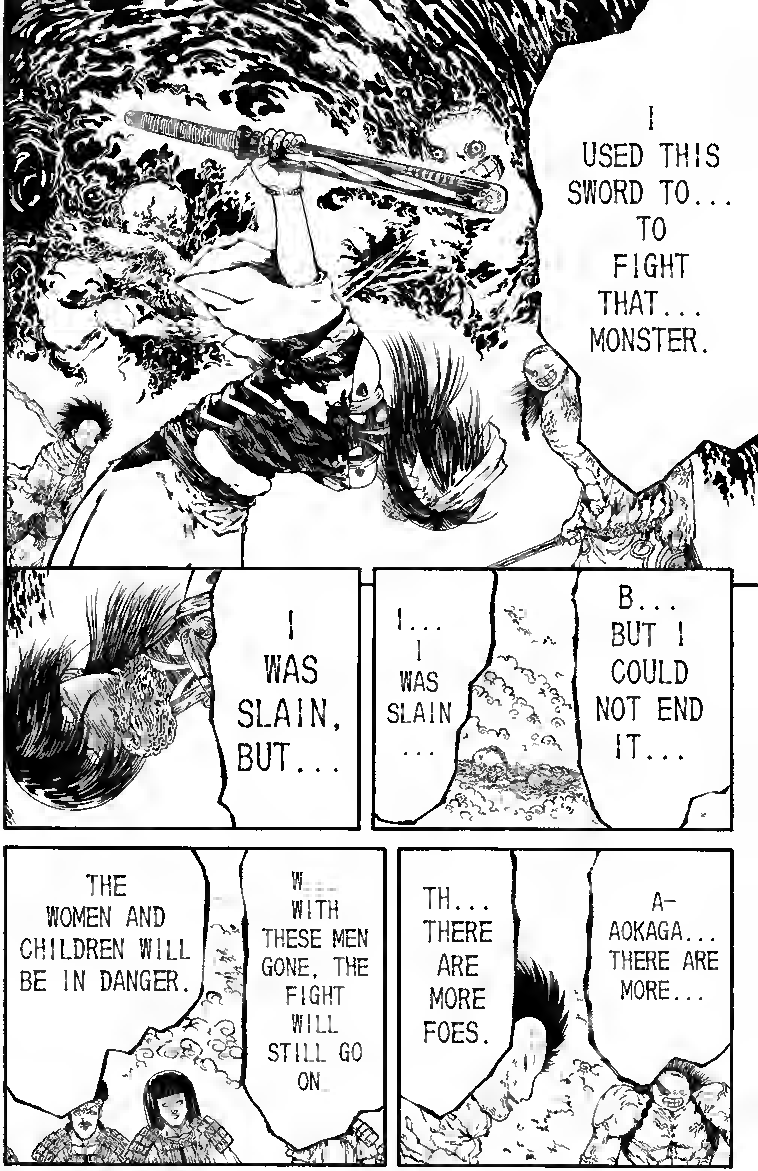
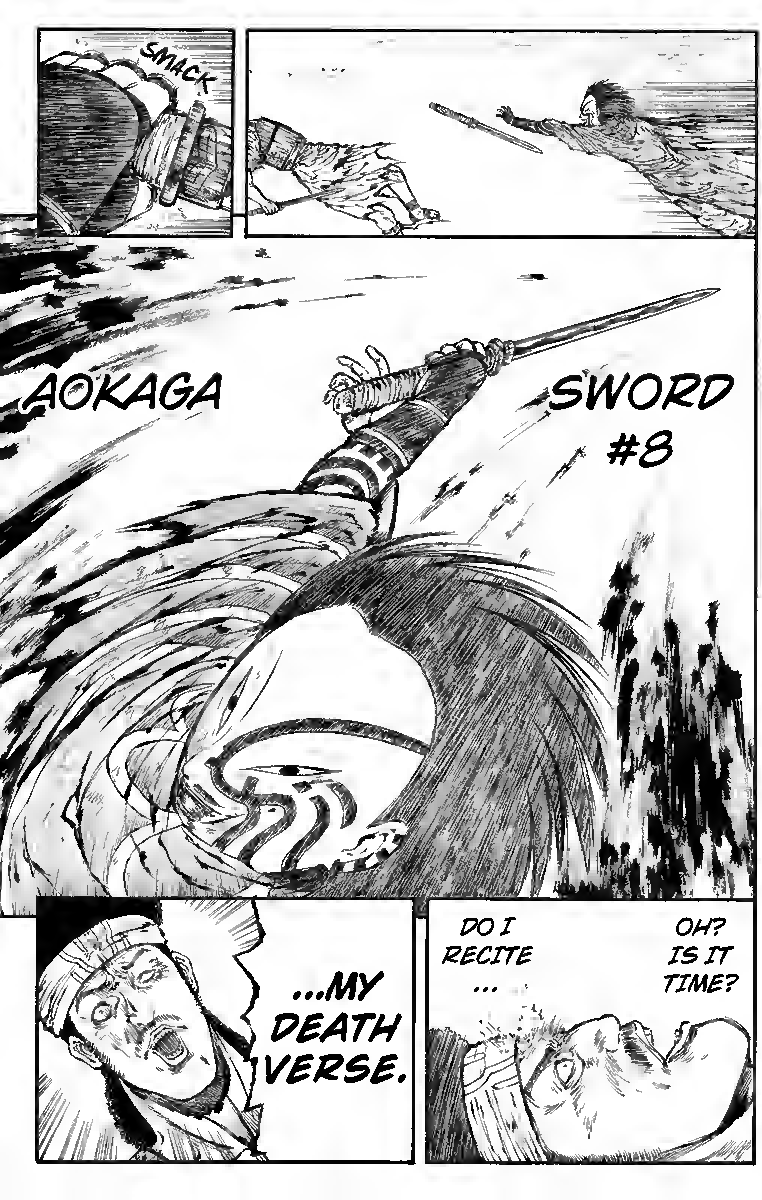

I USED THIS SWORD TO... TO FIGHT THAT... MONSTER.
I WAS SLAIN, BUT...
I... I WAS SLAIN...
B... BUT I COULD NOT END IT...
THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN WILL BE IN DANGER.
W... WITH THESE MEN GONE, THE FIGHT WILL STILL GO ON.
TH... THERE ARE MORE FOES.
A- AOKAGA... THERE ARE MORE...

U...
USE THIS SWORD. U-USE THIS SWORD, AOKA-GAAAH
...
USE IT BEFORE
...
YOU
...
EVEN MORE
...
...ARE HURT
...
AO-KAGA?

GIVE ME THAT.
I'M NOT SURE ...
JUST GIVE ME IT!
THIS WILL BE TROUBLE!
TOSS

OH, AO-KAGA-AA!
WHISH
KILL HIM NOW!
SWORD #6: TOITE
SWORD #4: NAGASE

SHI
ING
...HMM?

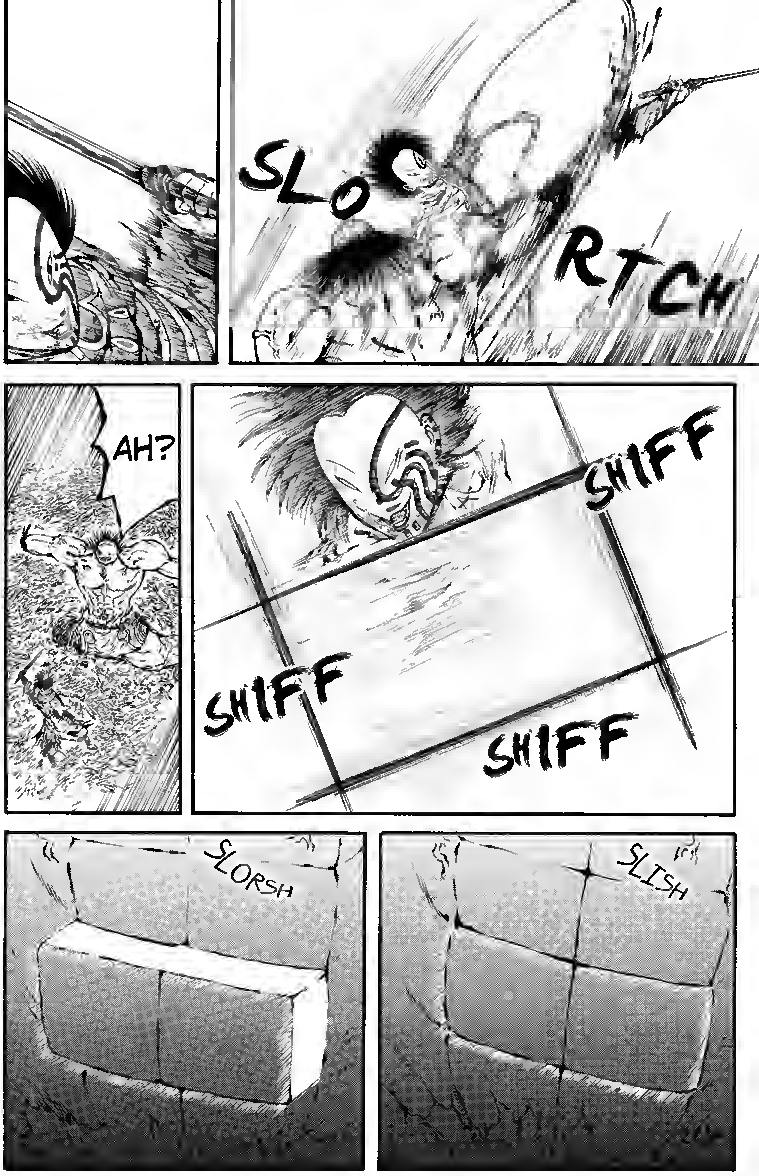

SMACK
AOKAGA
SWORD
#8
OH? IS IT TIME?
DO I RECITE ...
...MY DEATH VERSE.

SL
AM
OUT OF THE WAY!
IT WON'T BREAK!
CLA
NG
NOT EVEN KIGITSU CAN BREAK A SUZUNARI BLADE!
IF HE OUT-MOVES YOU, YOU'RE DEAD!
WOOSH
IS HE TRYING TO BLIND HIM?

NO, HE'S AIMING DIRT CLODS AT HIS LEGS!
WHUD
LEAP
THEY'RE SLOWING HIM DOWN!
BOOM BOOM
THEY'RE PUTTING HIM OFF BALANCE AS HE ATTACKS!
HIDING ON A ROOF?!
WHIP

DOWN YOU GO!
HR- OFF!
HUH?
CRA
CK
A HOLE ?
IT WAS A TRAP ?
NO! NOT A TRAP ...

IT'S FOR STOR-AGE!
STORAGE PITS
IN ANCIENT VILLAGES, STORAGE PITS WERE OFTEN DUG AND USED TO PRESERVE DIFFERENT FOODS.
HOLE
HOUSE
HE KNEW THERE WAS A PIT THERE AND LURED HIM IN!
HE USED HIS HOME TOWN AGAINST THE ENEMY!
I'VE GOT ACORNS STUCK IN MY FOOT!


SLO
RTCH
AH?
SHIFF
SHIFF
SHIFF
SLORSH
SLISH

MY STO-MACH!
BOOSH
N-NO! ALL THE IRON I ATE ...
RATTLE RATTLE
WITH NO IRON, I'M...

I'LL FINISH YOU WITH BRONZE.
ARE YOUR INSIDES HARD TOO?
HGL-AUR-AUGH!

IT DOES, HOWEVER, HAVE LUNATICS LIKE THE UPPER VILLAGE.

THE LOWER VILLAGE DOES NOT HAVE IRON WEAPONS LIKE THE UPPER VILLAGE.

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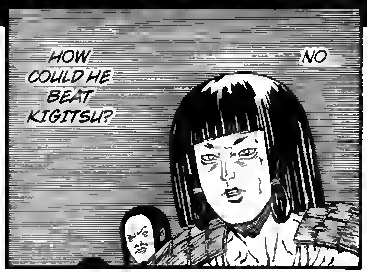
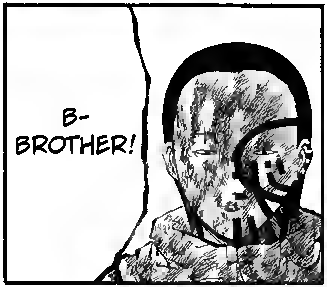
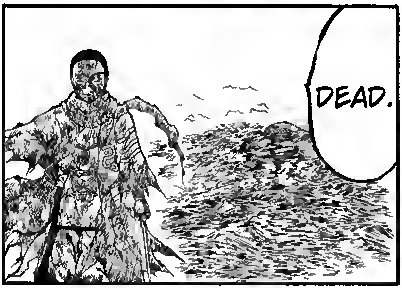
TRANSLATION: AKONVOCEO
ADAPTATION BY: TESSINUSS JUTA
SKY JAPAN INC.

CHAPTER 35: THE WIND STOPS







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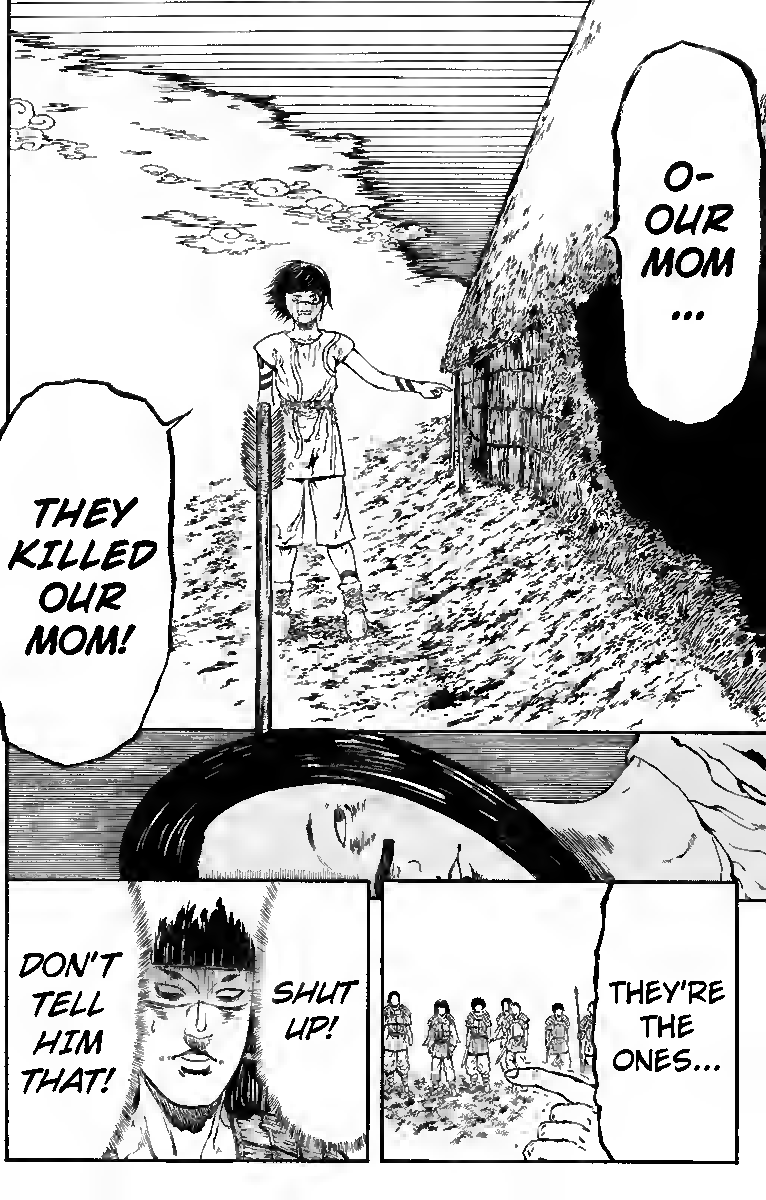
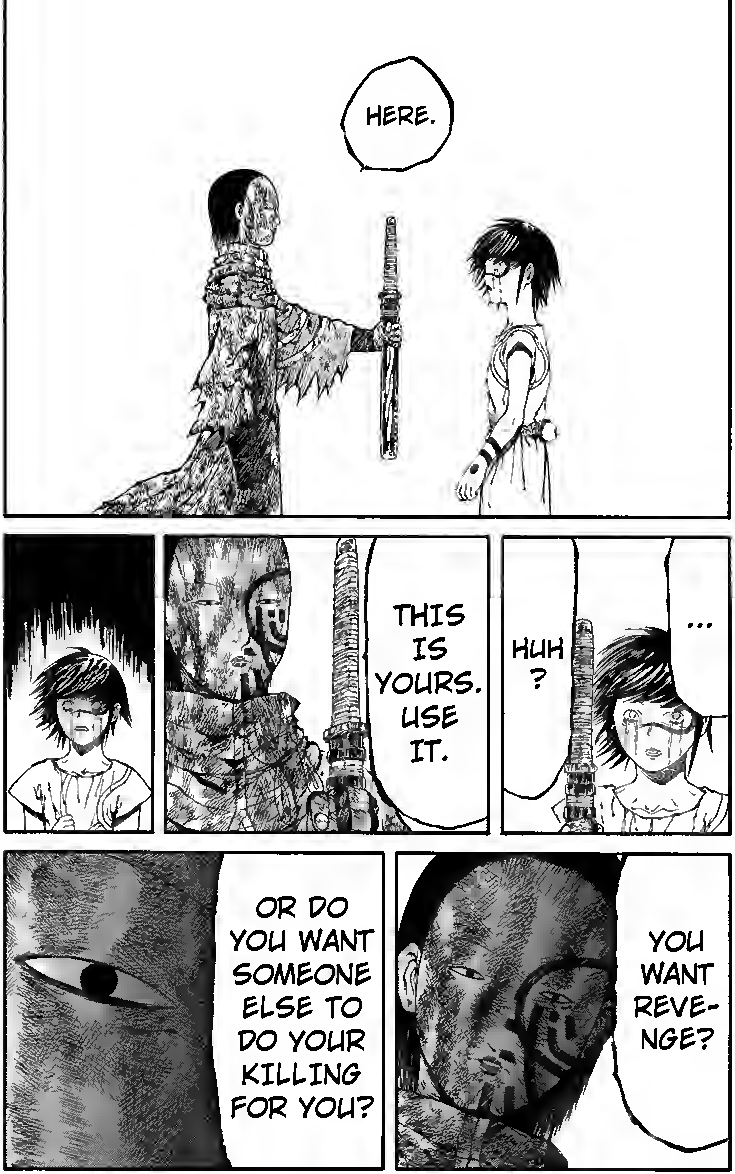

O-OUR MOM ...
THEY KILLED OUR MOM!
THEY'RE THE ONES...
SHUT UP!
DON'T TELL HIM THAT!


HERE.
THIS IS YOURS. USE IT.
HUH?
...
OR DO YOU WANT SOMEONE ELSE TO DO YOUR KILLING FOR YOU?
YOU WANT REVE-NGE?

GO GET IT!
YOU DON'T NEED TO GIVE HIM THAT. KIGITSU'S SWORD WOULD WORK JUST AS WELL.
AOKA-GA!
I WON'T LET YOU HAVE IT!
NOPE!
SNAG
STOP HIM, AOKAGA!
GOOD! HURRY BACK HERE, AGERU!

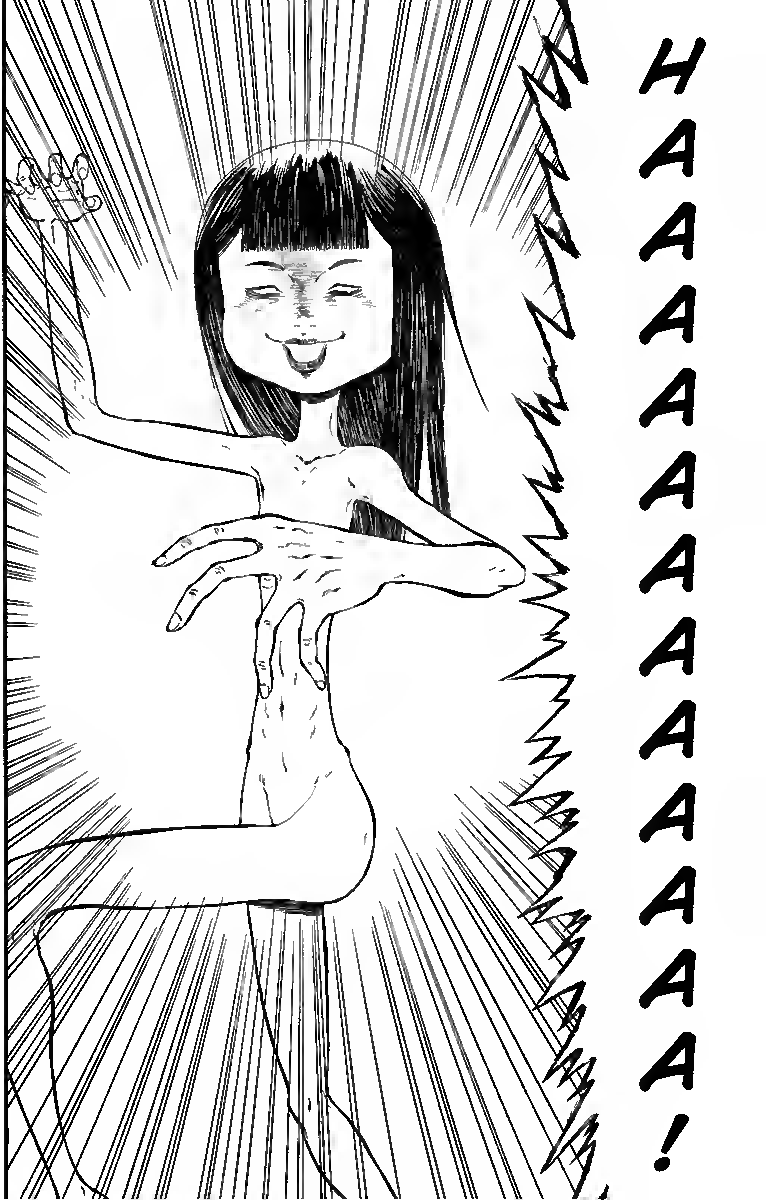
HACK
WHERE DID THAT RIB GO?
NOW ...
SQUEEZE SQUEEZE
HURRRG
AH!
DON'T CHIDE ME, TSUKUSO!
THIS IS BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T USE THE SUZUNARI SWORD SOONER!
NO ONE WOULD BE UN-INJURED BY THAT.
YES! KIGITSU SLAMMED INTO HIM AGAIN AND AGAIN!
WHU
MPH
BO
OF

AAAOKAAGAAA!
YOU PUP!
WOBBLE
DON'T HOLD BACK! HE'S HURT!
EVEN IF YOU DON'T BEAT HIM, YOU CAN GO AROUND TO HOLD THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN!
OOOOOOO
OOOA
AAR

...IT SOON FALTERED.
HOWEVER ...
ROOOOAR
THE WIND BLEW STRONG OVER THE BATTLEFIELD.
HA HA HA! THE MOUNTAIN SPIRIT WON'T HELP YOU, AKOYA!
AND WHY IS THAT?
SLAP

AH?!

YOU!
TAKE IT ALL OFF!
RRIIP
NOW DANCE!
THE SPIRIT LOVES WOMEN.
HE MAKES THE WIND BLOW FOR AKOYA ...
...BUT ALL OF US DANCING NAKED WILL DISTRACT HIM!
AND HE MAY FIND SOMEONE HE LIKES EVEN MORE THAN AKOYA, TOO!
AND YOU LITTLE GIRLS WON'T SHOW ME UP!
FWOOSH


HAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!

CHAPTER 36: SCALES

BRIDE OF THE SPIRIT

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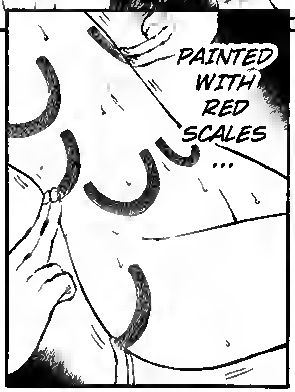
TRANSLATION BY AARON DODSON
ADAPTATION BY JESSI|NUSS (JVTA)
SKY JAPAN, INC.



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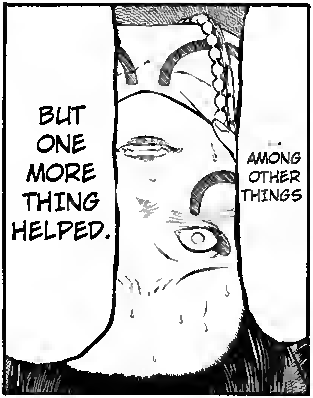
GIVE US WIND! GIVE US WIND!
WE OFFER AKOYA AS THE MOUNTAIN SPIRIT'S BRIDE!


BUT ONE MORE THING HELPED.
...AMONG OTHER THINGS

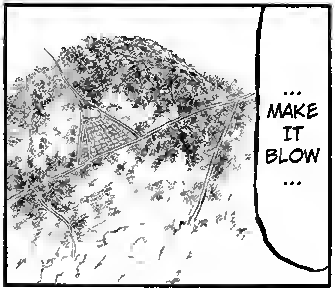
...WE MADE A CAUSE, SHOWED THE ALLURE OF IRON...
TO MAKE THE UPPER VILLAGE BECOME ONE...

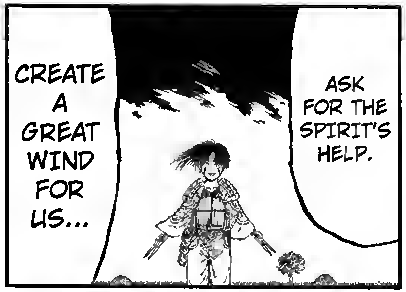
AS THE SHADOW OF WAR CAME...
ENVY TOWARD YOU, AKOYA.
...YOU KEPT YOURSELF LOCKED AWAY WITH YOUR FATHER.
THE CHIEF AND HIS SON TREATED YOU DIFFERENTLY.
ALL OF THE VILLAGE ...
... WANTED TO DO THIS TO YOU.
DO YOU REALLY THINK THE VILLAGE CHANGED ALL OF A SUDDEN?
YOU JUST DIDN'T SEE.
OH, BUT YOUR FATHER WASN'T AS BLIND AS YOU.

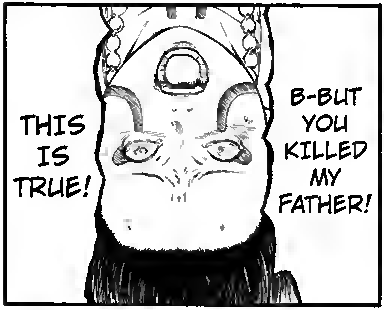
...EVEN WHEN IT WAS ALL UNDER YOUR NOSE.
YOU NEVER NOTICED ...
BUT IT WASN'T ME HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT...
THIS IS WAR.
...BUT IT MADE ME FEEL LIKE MY FATHER WAS WATCHING OVER ME.
THE SEVENTH SWORD WASN'T THE BEST...
YOU ONLY THINK OF YOURSELF, AKOYA.
...AND I SULKED OVER THAT.
ARE YOU JUST BEING PARANOID? THE CHIEF AND HIS SON ARE ALWAYS ACTING FISHY.

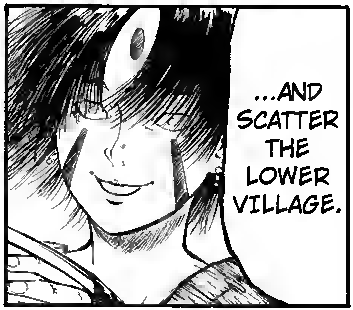
I SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
IF MY FATHER'S WORK IS THE CAUSE OF THIS WAR, THEN LET ME HELP.
THE TENTH SWORD...
I TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT THE DANGER TO THE LOWER VILLAGE.
RRRIP
WE COULD SURRE-NDER AND WAIT...
ONLY YOUR-SELF.
I DIDN'T TRUST THEM.
...WAS THAT I WAS AFRAID TO GIVE UP THE POWER TO FIGHT TO THE LOWER VILLAGE.
THE REASON I VOLUNTEERED TO CARRY THE SWORD...

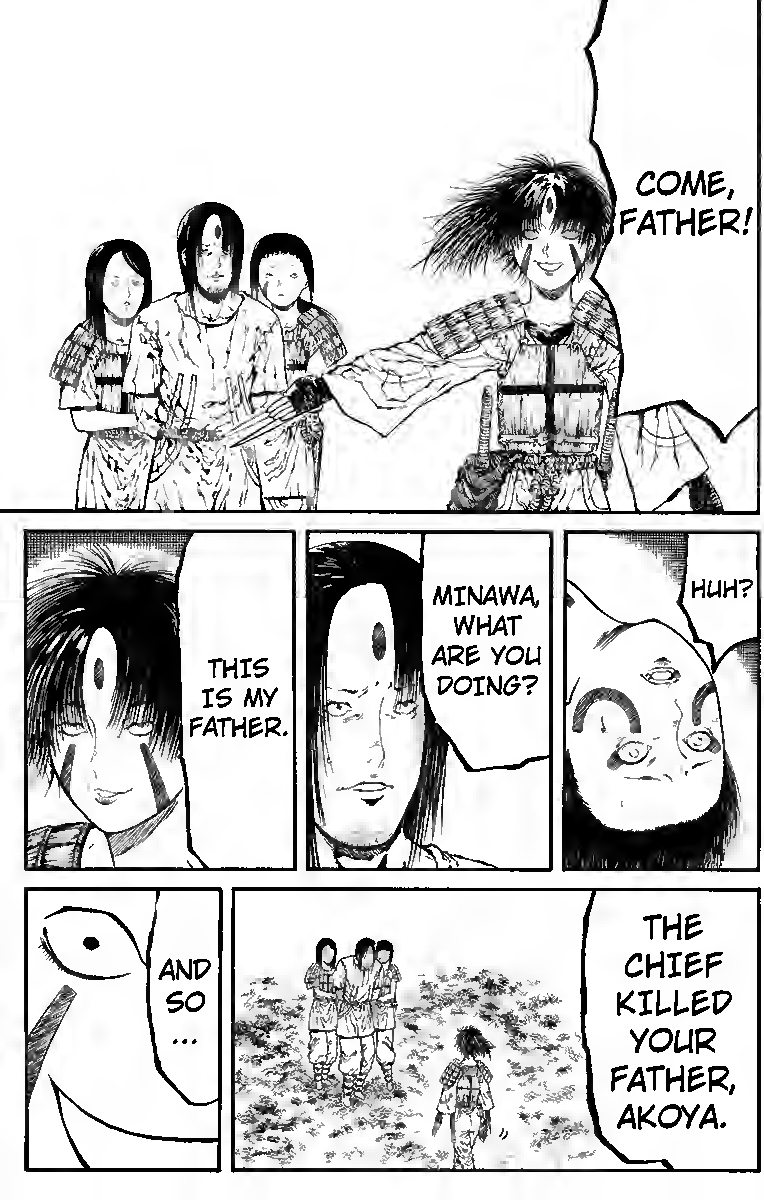
BUT YOU ARE STILL A MEMBER OF THE UPPER VILLAGE, AKOYA.


... MAKE IT BLOW ...

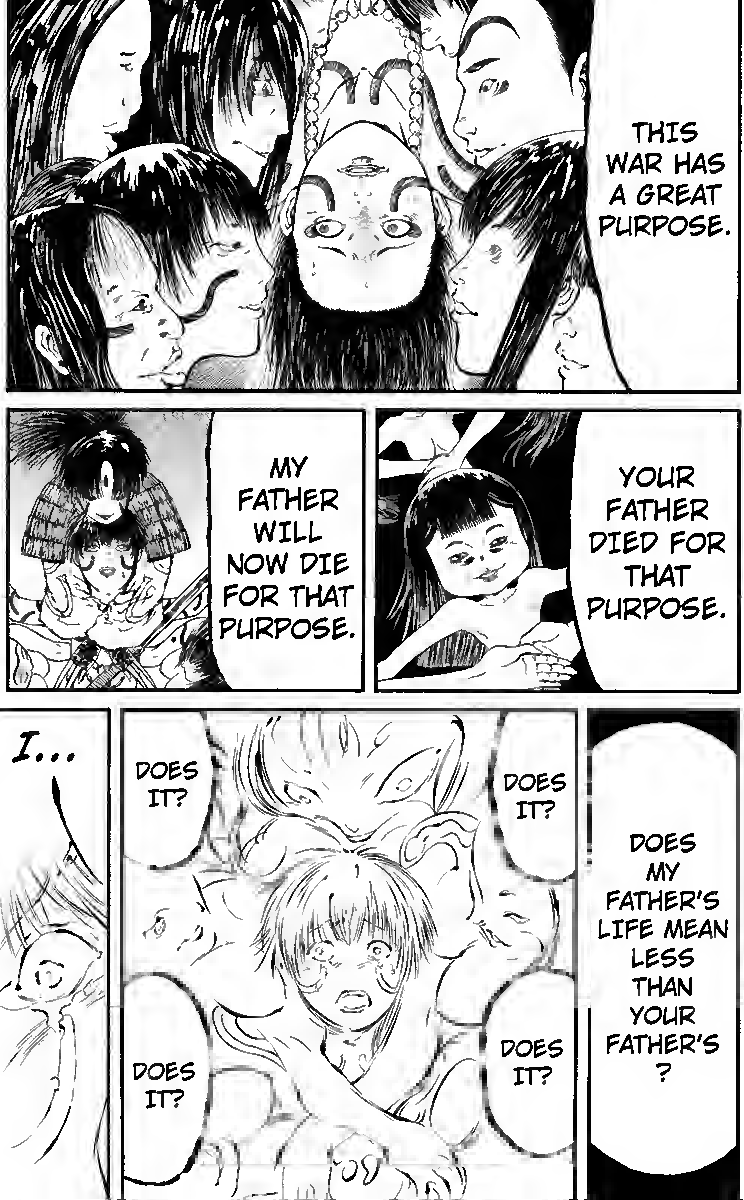

CREATE A GREAT WIND FOR US...
ASK FOR THE SPIRIT'S HELP.


THIS IS TRUE!
B-BUT YOU KILLED MY FATHER!


...AND SCATTER THE LOWER VILLAGE.

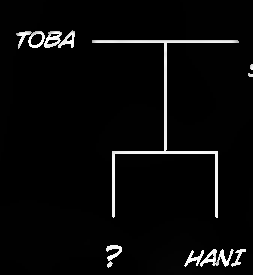

COME, FATHER!
HUH?
MINAWA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THIS IS MY FATHER.
THE CHIEF KILLED YOUR FATHER, AKOYA.
AND SO ...

SWOOSH
I'LL TAKE ...
... YOUR SWORD!
NOW WE'RE EVEN.
AND KILL MY FATHER.
DID YOU LEARN ABOUT THE LAKESIDE VILLAGE IN THE LOWER VILLAGE?
IF YOU WOULD HAVE LISTENED TO THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU WHILE YOU WERE IN THE UPPER VILLAGE, YOU WOULD HAVE LEARNED THERE.
BUT YOU ONLY THINK OF YOURSELF.

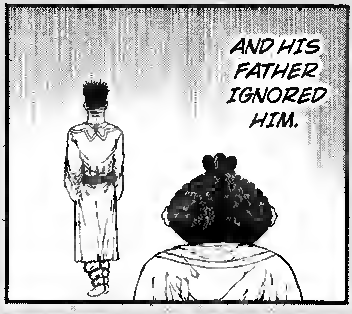

THIS WAR HAS A GREAT PURPOSE.
YOUR FATHER DIED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
MY FATHER WILL NOW DIE FOR THAT PURPOSE.
DOES MY FATHER'S LIFE MEAN LESS THAN YOUR FATHER'S ?
DOES IT?
DOES IT?
DOES IT?
DOES IT?
I...

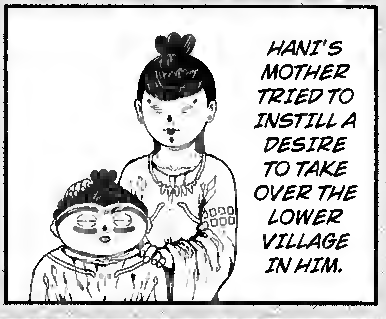
OSH
WO
SWORD #7 HANI
YOU'RE ALL OUT OF LINE.
AH!

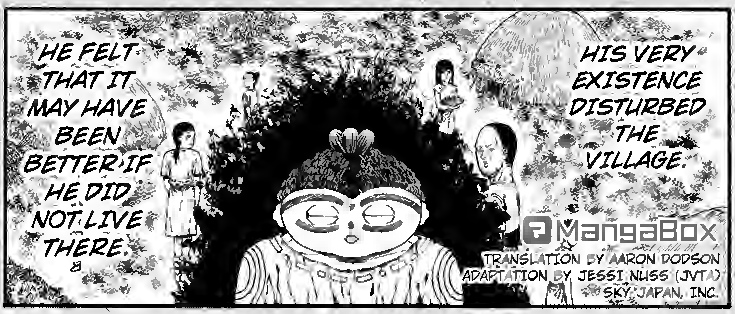
HANI IS THE SON OF TOBA AND THE LAKESIDE VILLAGE'S SAZUMA.



CHAPTER 37: HANI







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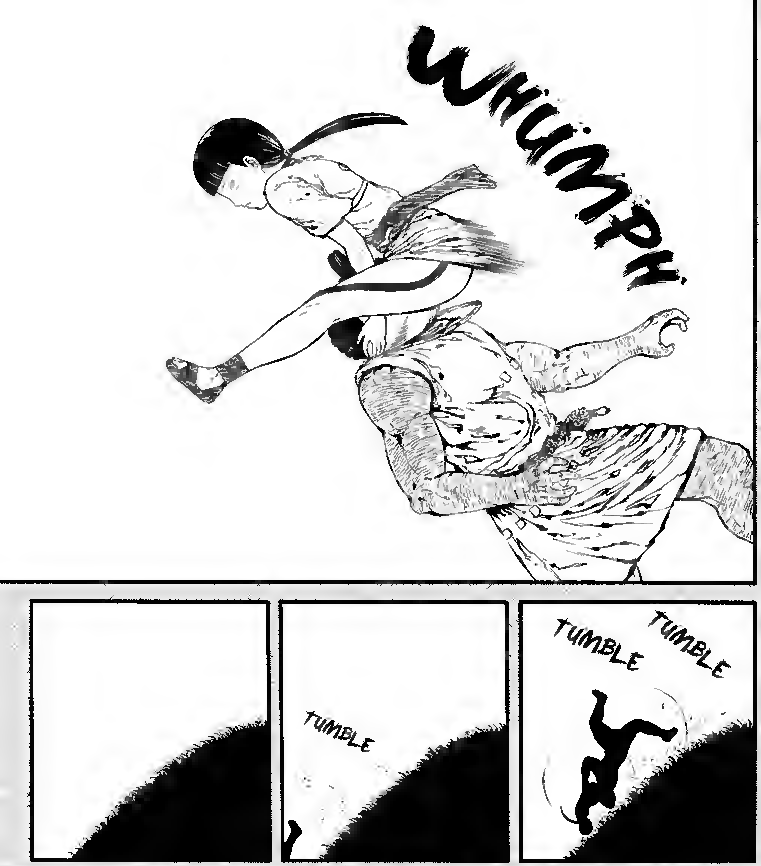
TRANSLATION BY AARON DODSON
ADAPTATION BY JESSI NUSS (JVTA)
SKY JAPAN, INC.

I WANT TO BE WITH YOU, HANI.
YOUR FATHER WILL GET MAD IF WE'RE TOO CLOSE.
IS IT WRONG TO BE CLOSE WITH FAMILY?
YOU DON'T NEED TO FRET OVER ME.
I'M NOT FRETTING!
THEN I'LL PROVE THAT I WANT YOU.
MARRY ME, HANI.
WHAT DID YOU ...?


WHUMPH

TUMBLE
TUMBLE
TUMBLE

LET'S BE EVEN CLOSER FAMILY.

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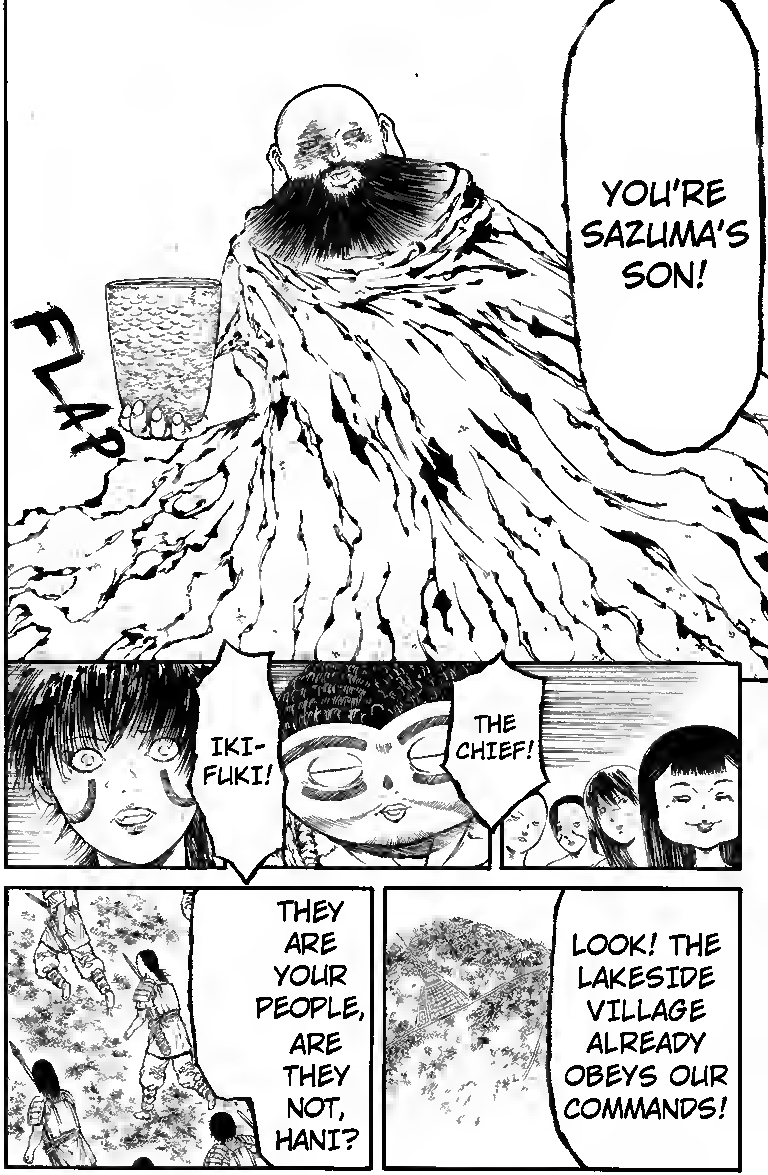
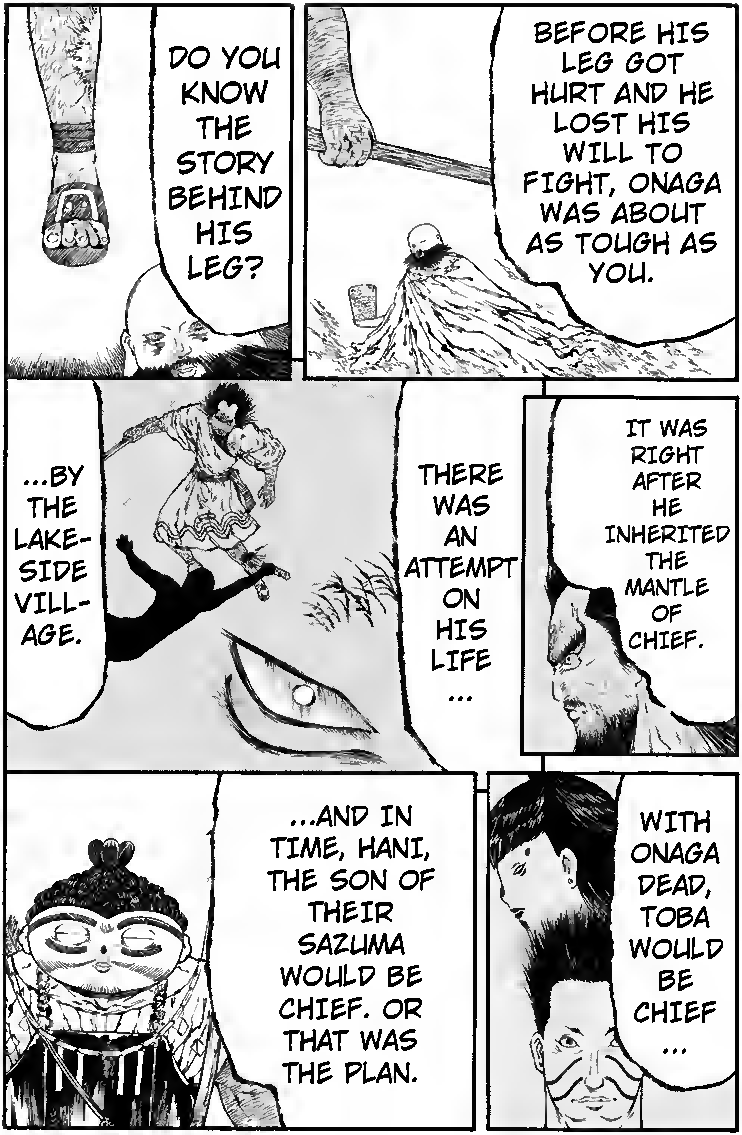
AGH!
INK
BO
MIN-AWA!
HACK
KOFF
YOU SAY YOU'RE AKOYA'S FRIEND, BUT...
WHY? WHY WOULD YOU BE FIGHTING FOR THE LOWER VILLAGE?!
AH!
FLAP


YOU'RE SAZUMA'S SON!
FLAP
IKI-FUKI!
THE CHIEF!
THEY ARE YOUR PEOPLE, ARE THEY NOT, HANI?
LOOK! THE LAKESIDE VILLAGE ALREADY OBEYS OUR COMMANDS!

CLINK
SPRING
FLARAP
...IRON!!
THAT FEELS LIKE...
KIIIN
CLINK
CLINK
CLINK


DO YOU KNOW THE STORY BEHIND HIS LEG?
BEFORE HIS LEG GOT HURT AND HE LOST HIS WILL TO FIGHT, ONAGA WAS ABOUT AS TOUGH AS YOU.
IT WAS RIGHT AFTER HE INHERITED THE MANTLE OF CHIEF.
THERE WAS AN ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE ...
...BY THE LAKE-SIDE VILL-AGE.
WITH ONAGA DEAD, TOBA WOULD BE CHIEF ...
...AND IN TIME, HANI, THE SON OF THEIR SAZUMA WOULD BE CHIEF. OR THAT WAS THE PLAN.

BUT HE HAD NO EVIDENCE, AND SO HE WOULD NOT RETURN THE FAVOR.
THE GENTLE FOOL!
SO WHY DO YOU FIGHT FOR THE LOWER VILLAGE ?!
YOU HEAR ME?!
HE LOPPED OFF THE WOULD-BE ASSASSIN'S ARM, BUT HE GOT AWAY.
RRRIP
AH!
VWOOF
I CHOOSE MY WIFE OVER MY MOTHER!

THEY LOOK LIKE A DRAGON'S SCALES, RIGHT?

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YOU CRACKED SOME.

CHAPTER 38: BONES

IS THAT SPEAR THE SEVENTH SWORD?

ALL THESE BLADES ARE SHARP, MAYBE ENOUGH TO MATCH THE SEVENTH SWORD.

MAYBE.

OH, SUZU-NARI'S WORK IS JUST TOO MUCH! WAAAAAH!

GUSH

AH?

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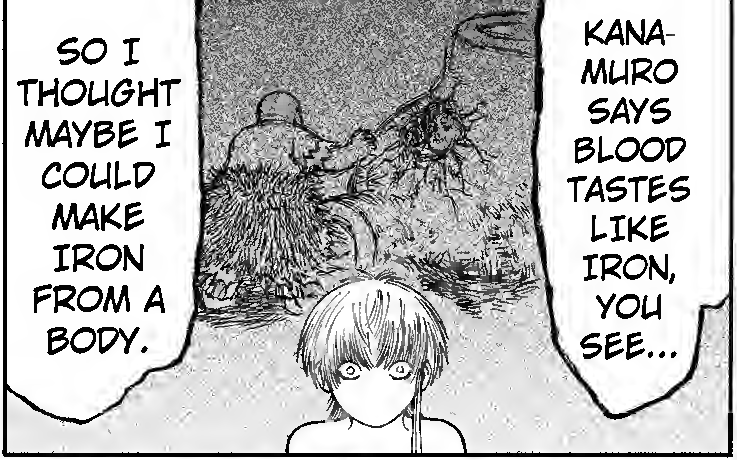
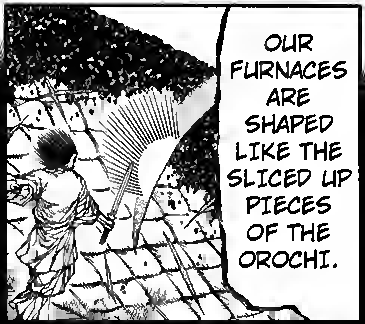
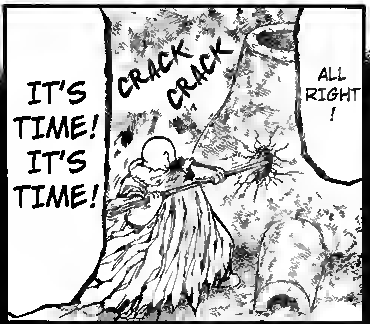
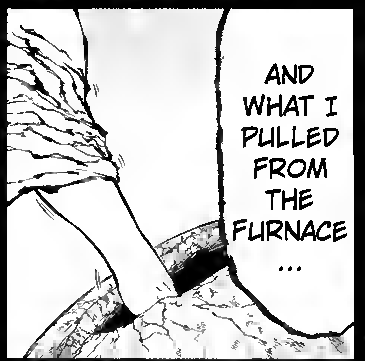
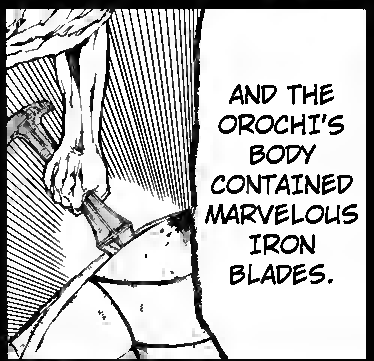
SUZUNARIIIIII!
HEY! AKO-YAAAA!
LISTEN TO ME!
AKO-YAAA!
I-I TOOK SUZU-NARI'S BODY ...
...AND I PUT IT INTO A FURNACE.
...
HUH ?


KANA-
MURO
SAYS
BLOOD
TASTES
LIKE
IRON,
YOU
SEE...
SO I
THOUGHT
MAYBE I
COULD
MAKE
IRON
FROM A
BODY.


OUR
FURNACES
ARE
SHAPED
LIKE THE
SLICED UP
PIECES
OF THE
OROCHI.


IT'S
TIME!
IT'S
TIME!
CRACK
CRACK
ALL
RIGHT
!

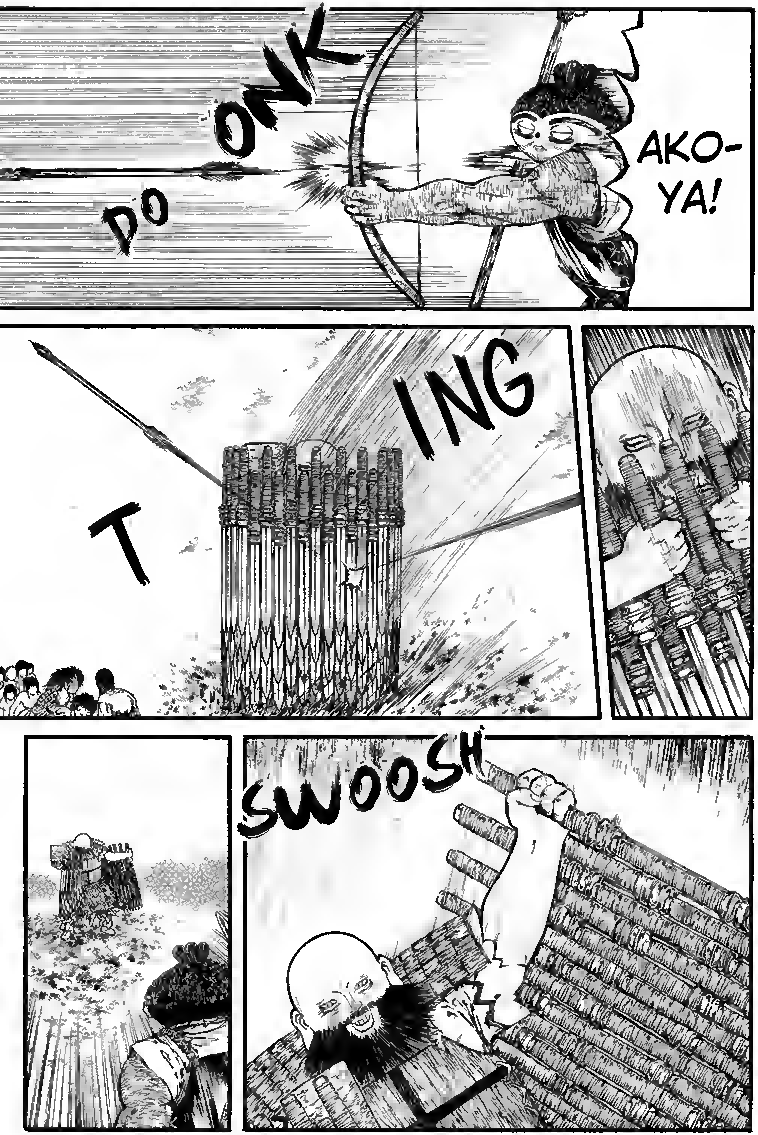

AND
WHAT I
PULLED
FROM
THE
FURNACE
...


AND THE
OROCHI'S
BODY
CONTAINED
MARVELOUS
IRON
BLADES.

...I WANTED TO GIVE YOU A GIFT THAT FIT.
F-FOR YOUR WEDDING TO THE MOUNTAIN SPIRIT, AKOYA...
...WAS NOTHING BUT BONES!
A HEAP OF THE FINEST IRON MADE FROM YOUR FATHER'S BODY!,

BUT MY GIFT IS JUST A BUNCH OF BONES!
AH!
HRA-AAA-AAH!
SLAM
AKO-YAAA!

DO WHAT YOU WILL WITH ME FATHER!
AH!
YOU ONLY THINK OF YOURSELF!
YOU SHUT YOURSELF AWAY AND DIDN'T CONNECT WITH OTHERS.
AND NOW ...
... YOU'RE GOING TO RUIN OUR PRECIOUS WAR!

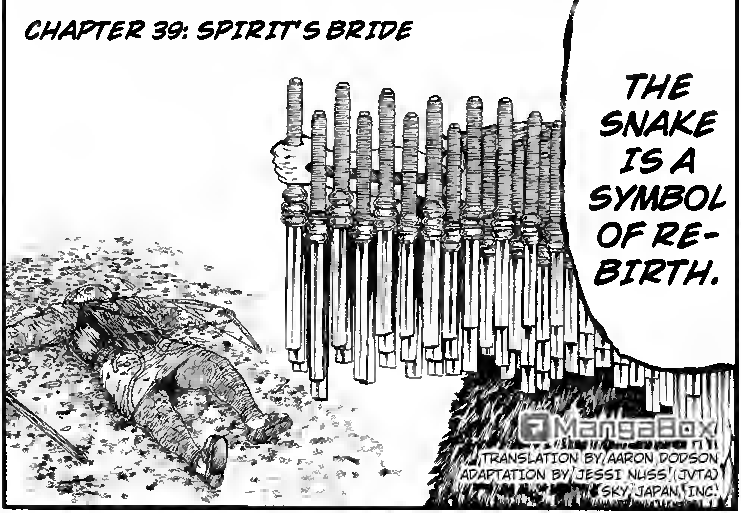

DO
ONK
AKO-
YA!
T
ING
SWOOSH

POP
CRUNCH
MUNCH
NOM
MMM...
NOW WE ARE ONE.

SUZU-
NARI
POWER!
FROOOAR
BREAK!
YES,
BREAK!

THAT'S JUST WHAT I WANT!
KAW
STAB
IKIFUKI SWORD #1

CHAPTER 39: SPIRIT'S BRIDE



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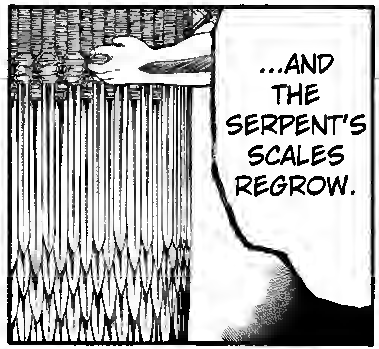

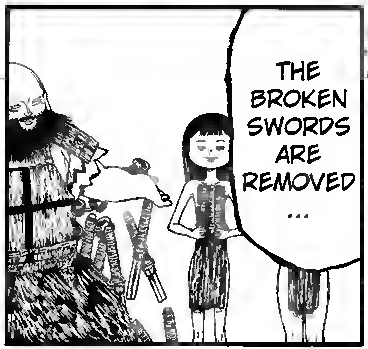

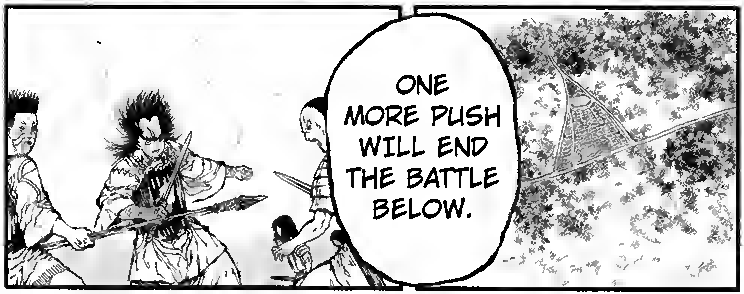

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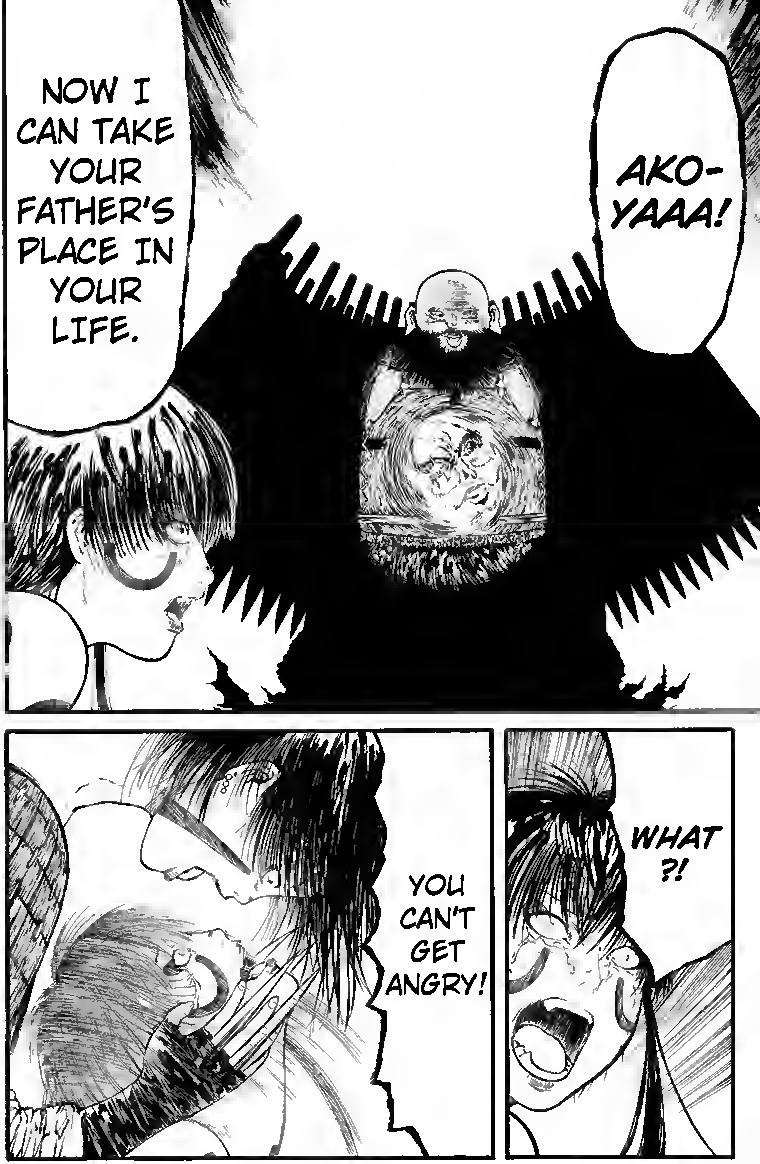
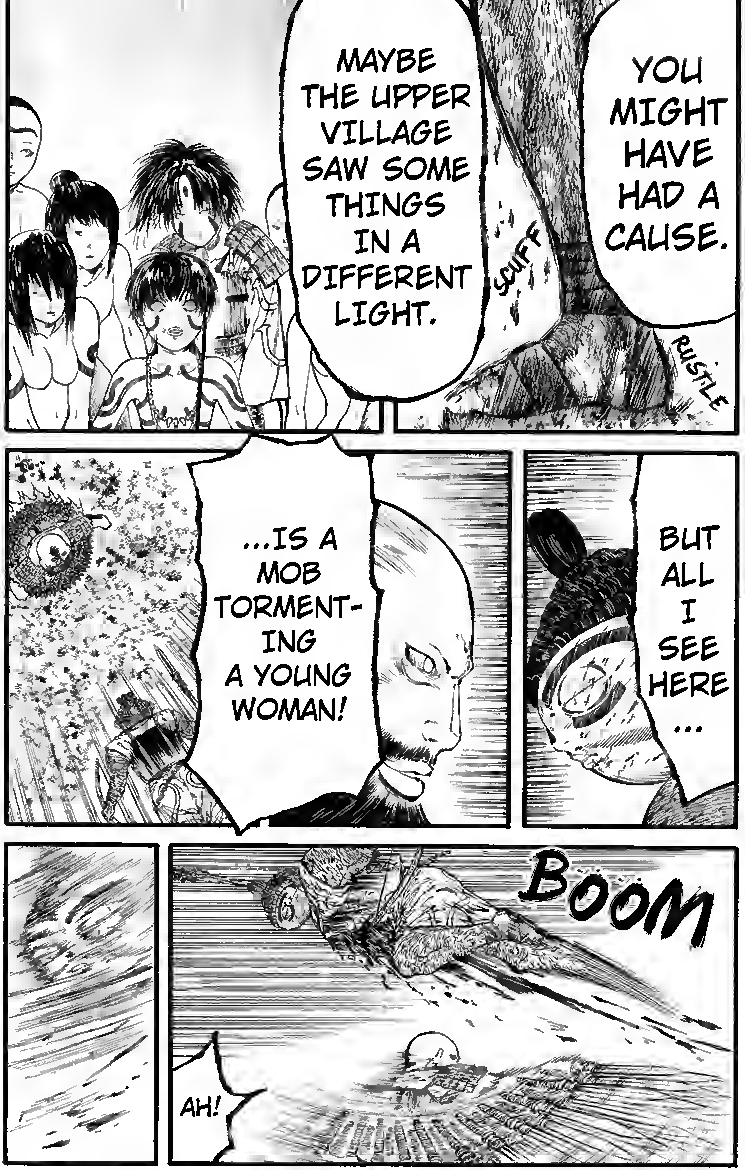

NOW I CAN TAKE YOUR FATHER'S PLACE IN YOUR LIFE.
AKO-YAAA!
YOU CAN'T GET ANGRY!
WHAT ?!

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO INTERFERE WITH OUR WAR!
...YOU CAN BE WRAPPED UP IN YOUR FELLOWS.
BUT SINCE YOU ARE AN UPPER VILLAGER ...
MAKE THE WIND BLOW FOR US!
NOW ...

AH?
IT'S ALL RIGHT TO BE ANGRY.
MY FATHER AND SAZUMA, TOO.
THEY'RE ALL SELFISH
...AND THAT CHILD WILL GET WRAPPED UP IN A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE LOWER VILLAGE AND THE LAKESIDE VILLAGE...
HANI, IF WE HAVE A CHILD ...
...

...CAN ALL RUN AWAY AS A FAMILY.
...THEN YOU AND ME AND THE CHILD ...
...YOU'LL CREATE NOTHING BUT CHAOS IN THE END.
...YOUR MOTHER AND YOUR FATHER ...
IF YOU DO WHAT THEY SAY ...
...I THINK THAT COULD PLANT SEEDS OF PEACE.
...
BUT IF YOU DROWN IN A WOMAN AND FORGET ALL ELSE...
YOU WERE JUST BORN INTO IT.
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU WANT.

...AM I NOT GOOD ENOUGH?
...OR...
YOU'RE ALL I WANT.
NO...
...THEN YOU NEED TO BE FIERCE AND SHOW THEM WHO YOU REALLY ARE.
IF YOU'RE SURROUNDED BY SELFISH PEOPLE...


MAYBE THE UPPER VILLAGE SAW SOME THINGS IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT.
YOU MIGHT HAVE HAD A CAUSE.
SNIFF
RUSTLE
...IS A MOB TORMENT-ING A YOUNG WOMAN!
BUT ALL I SEE HERE ...
BOOM
AH!

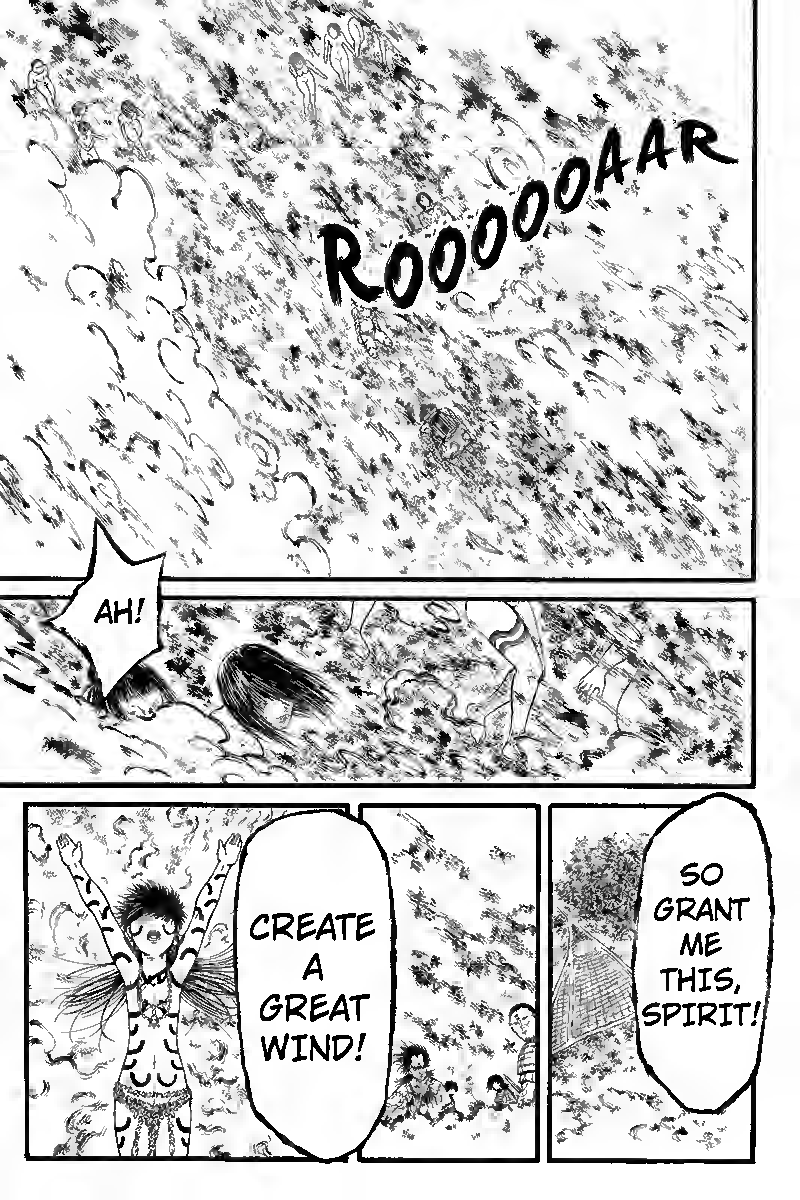
EAAK
CREEE
FIRE!
SHOOF

THUNK
WHUMP
KRA-SHOOM
NYA-AAA-AH!

...YOU MAY HAVE BEEN BORN AN UPPER VILLAGER ...
...BUT YOU'RE A FRIEND TO THE LOWER VILLAGE, TOO.
...I WISH I COULD HAVE DONE MORE FOR YOU.
... I CANNOT TELL YOU TO FIGHT FOR US.
...I CANNOT PROMISE YOU THINGS WILL GO WELL.
...ALL I CAN DO NOW IS TELL YOU THIS...

...IT IS ALL RIGHT TO BE ANGRY.
BE ANGRY ABOUT YOUR FATHER.
BE ANGRY AT ME FOR HURTING YOUR FRIENDS.
WHUMP
SHOW THEM WHO YOU REALLY ARE.

I WILL BE THE WIFE OF THE SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN.
HEAR ME.
AT LAST!
AKOYA!
I WILL DO AS THE SPIRIT WISHES.
SHOOO
SHOOOO


ROOOOOAAR
AH!
SO GRANT ME THIS, SPIRIT!
CREATE A GREAT WIND!

BLOW AWAY THE UPPER VILLAGE!
FWOOOOM

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CHAPTER 40: SCATTERED BLADES

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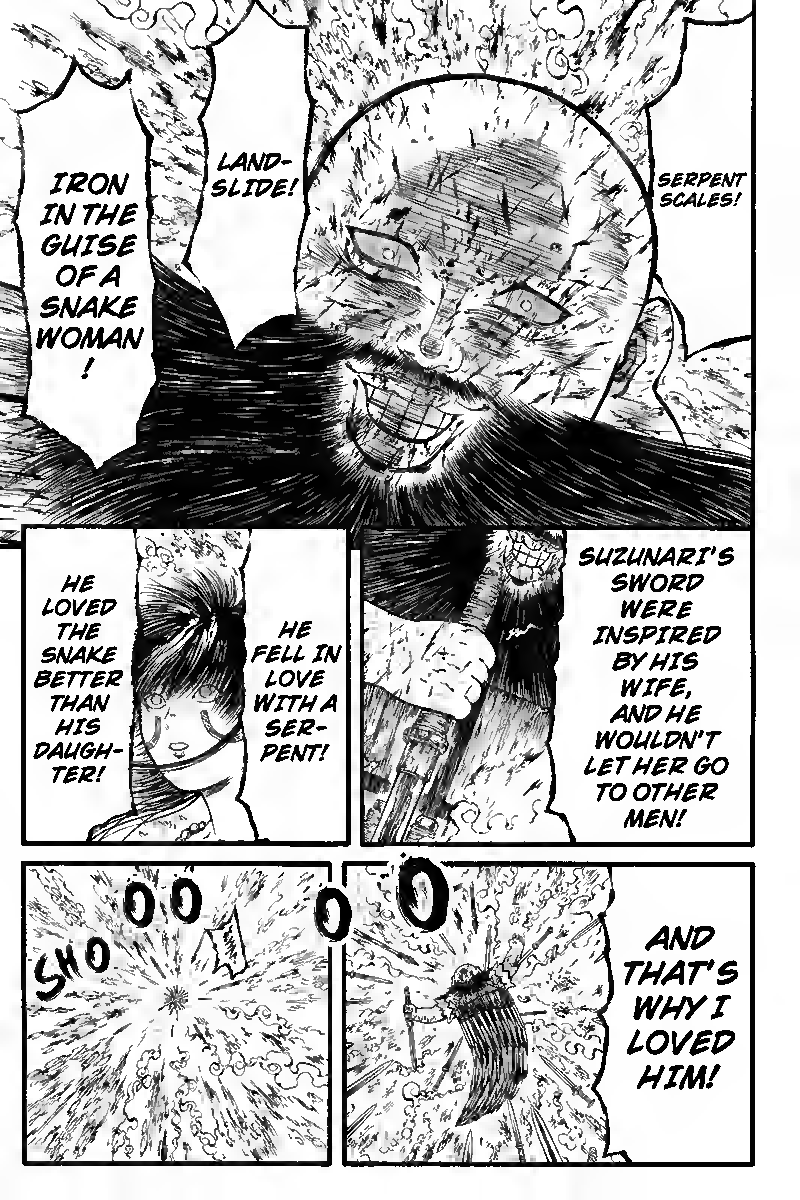
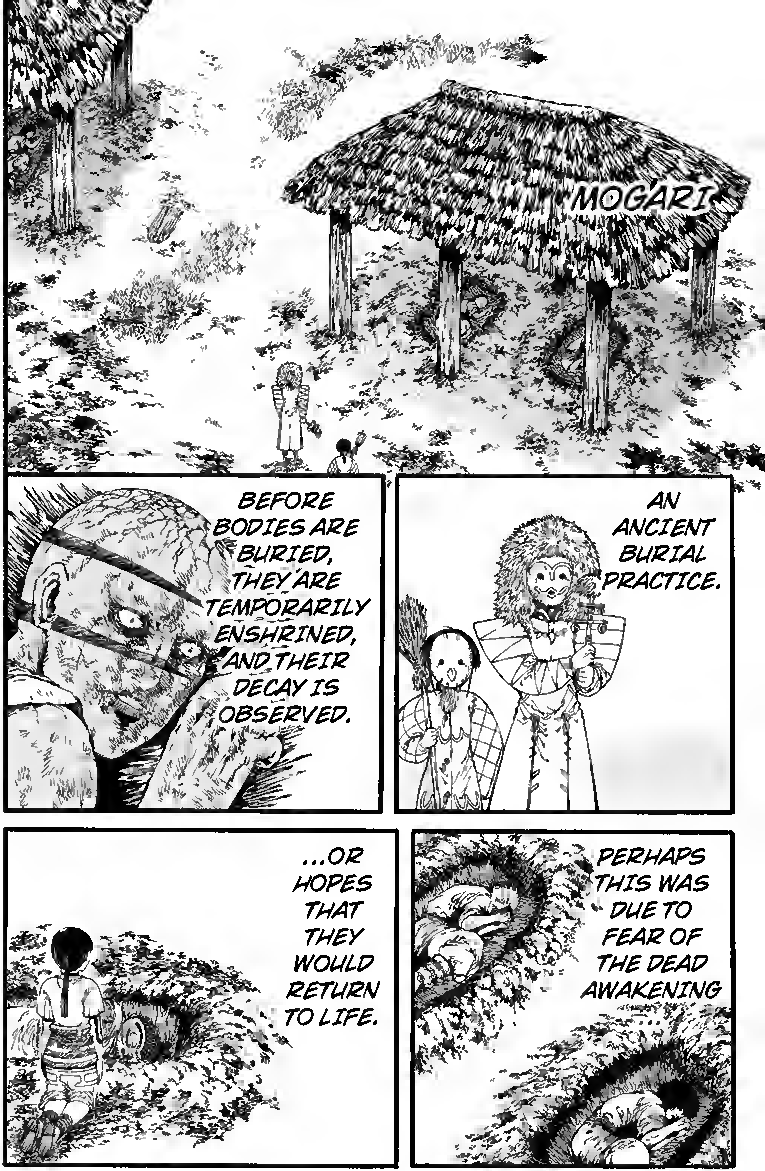
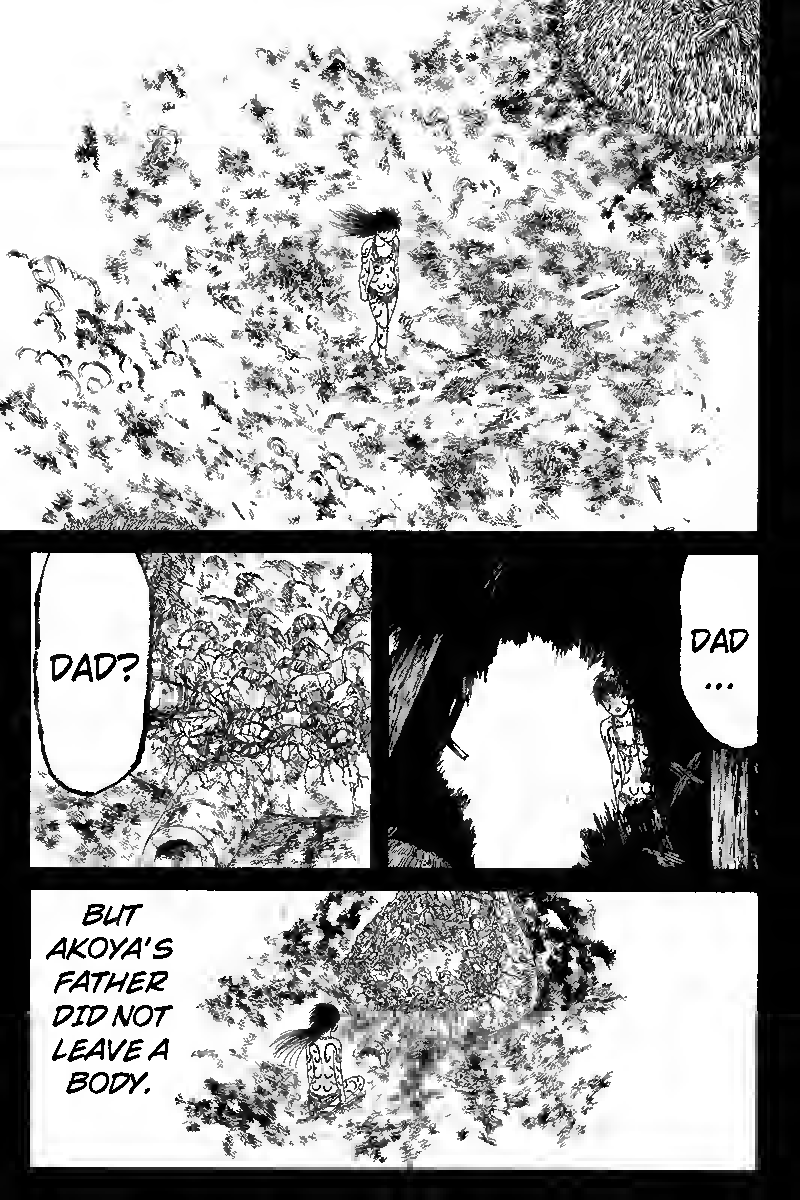
WHOO
OOO
SO, AKOYA!
...
DID YOU REALLY THINK SUZUNARI SENT YOU BELOW BECAUSE HE WANTED TO STOP THE WAR?
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY THE MOUNTAIN SPIRIT LIKES YOU?

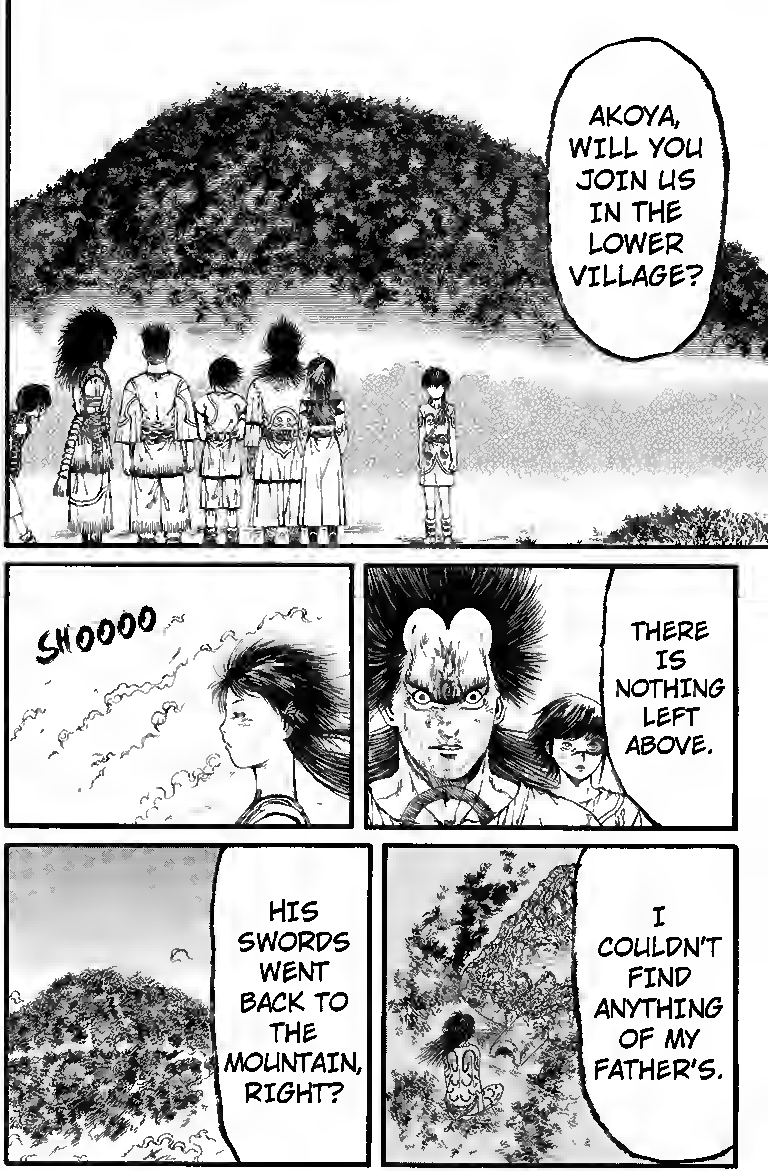

IRON IN THE GUISE OF A SNAKE WOMAN!
LAND-SLIDE!
SERPENT SCALES!
HE LOVED THE SNAKE BETTER THAN HIS DAUGH-TER!
HE FELL IN LOVE WITH A SER-PENT!
SUZUNARI'S SWORD WERE INSPIRED BY HIS WIFE, AND HE WOULDN'T LET HER GO TO OTHER MEN!
SHOOOO
OOO
AND THAT'S WHY I LOVED HIM!

...DRIVING THEM FROM THE LAND.
...CHASING THEM...
THE WIND BLEW AGAINST THE VILLAGERS ...
WHOOO
SHOOOO

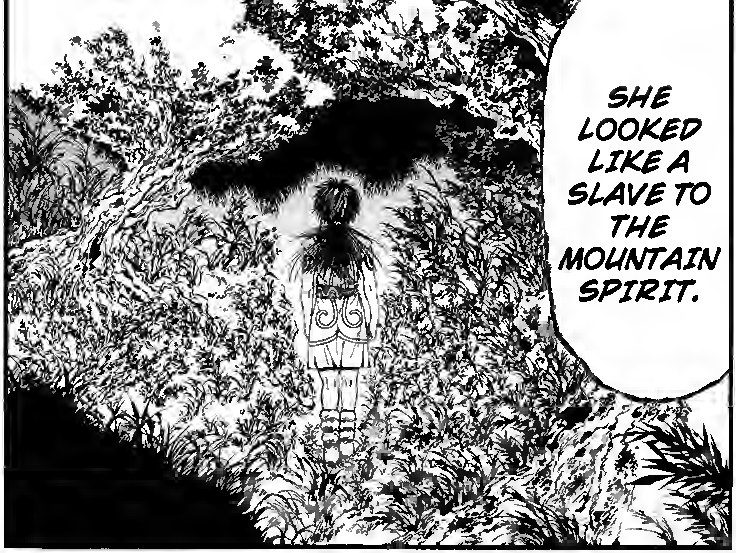
...AS THE MOUNTAIN SEEMED TO SUCK IN AND SWALLOW THE SWORDS FORGED BY AKOYA'S FATHER.
THE VILLAGERS WATCHED...
THE WAR WAS OVER.


MOGARI
BEFORE BODIES ARE BURIED, THEY ARE TEMPORARILY ENSHRINED, AND THEIR DECAY IS OBSERVED.
AN ANCIENT BURIAL PRACTICE.
...OR HOPES THAT THEY WOULD RETURN TO LIFE.
PERHAPS THIS WAS DUE TO FEAR OF THE DEAD AWAKENING

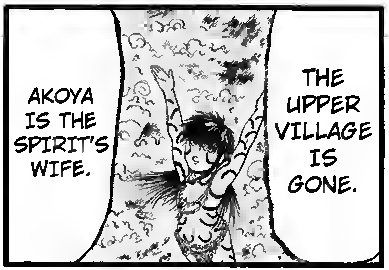

DAD?
DAD ...
BUT AKOYA'S FATHER DID NOT LEAVE A BODY.


AKOYA, WILL YOU JOIN US IN THE LOWER VILLAGE?
SHOOOO
THERE IS NOTHING LEFT ABOVE.
HIS SWORDS WENT BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN, RIGHT?
I COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING OF MY FATHER'S.

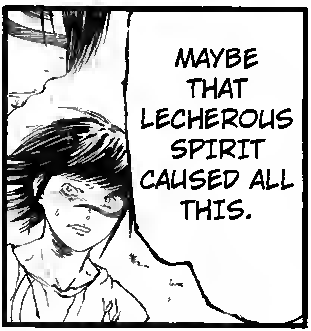
AKO ...
I WILL SEARCH FOR THEM.
SHOO
OO
WHOO
OSH
BUT I ALSO FELT THAT BEING TOO CLOSE TO THE SPIRIT WAS A BAD IDEA.
THAT WASN'T A TOTAL LIE.
AT THE FESTIVAL, I SAID THAT THE SPIRIT WAS TIRED, SO SHE SHOULD WAIT TO GO BACK.

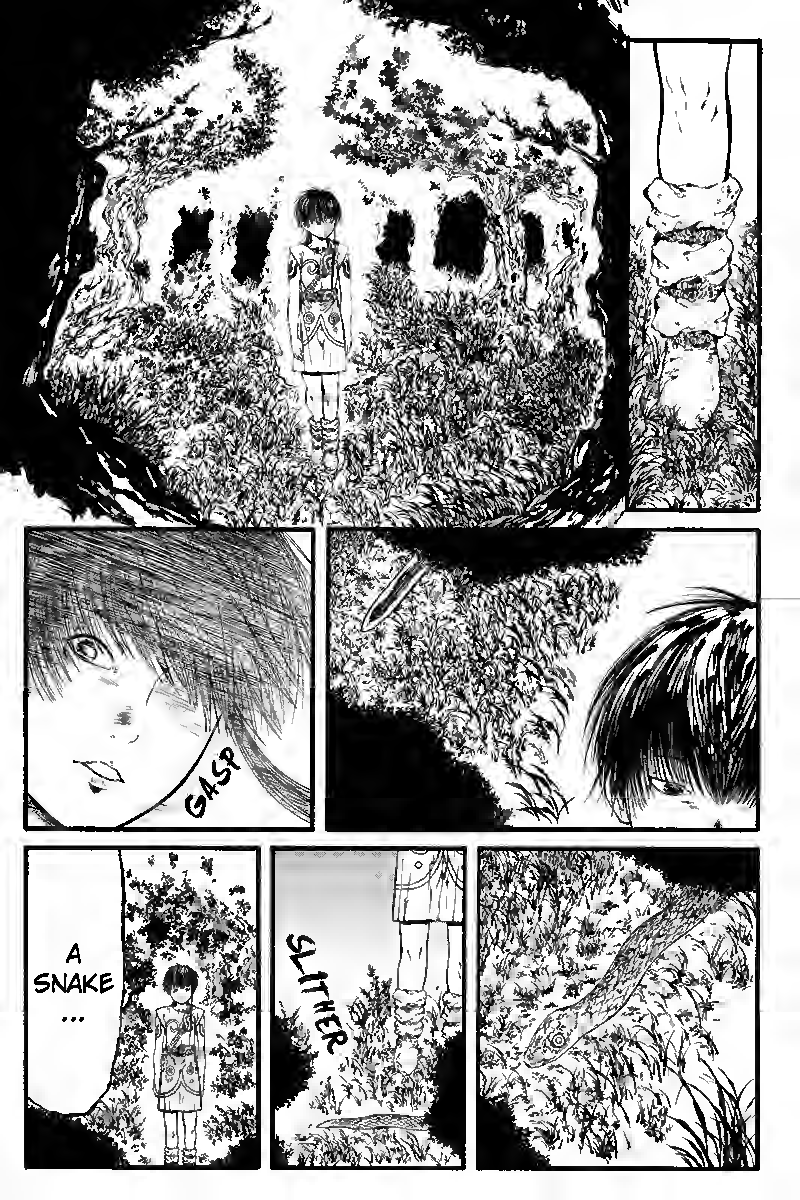

SHE LOOKED LIKE A SLAVE TO THE MOUNTAIN SPIRIT.

THE TWO ARE NOW ALONE ON THE MOUNTAIN.


AKOYA IS THE SPIRIT'S WIFE.
THE UPPER VILLAGE IS GONE.

SPIRITS CAN BE FRIGHT-ENING.


MAYBE THAT LECHEROUS SPIRIT CAUSED ALL THIS.


GASP
A SNAKE ...
SLITHER

AKOYA RETURNED TO THE MOUNTAIN.

...RELIEVED.

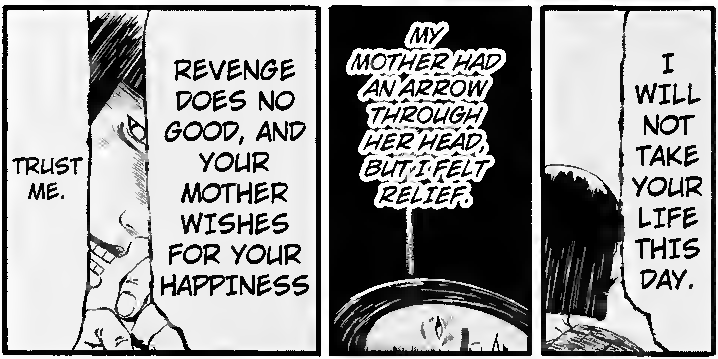
...I ONLY FELT...

...WHEN IT HAPPENED ...

...TOTALLY HONEST...

TO BE HONEST...

CHAPTER 41: THOSE WHO REMAIN


TRUST ME.
REVENGE DOES NO GOOD, AND YOUR MOTHER WISHES FOR YOUR HAPPINESS
MY MOTHER HAD AN ARROW THROUGH HER HEAD, BUT I FELT RELIEF.
I WILL NOT TAKE YOUR LIFE THIS DAY.

...BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE TO FIGHT.

I WAS GLAD...

...SOME PART OF ME FELT SAFE.

...BUT EVEN SO...

I TRIED TO MAKE THOSE WORDS MY REASON...

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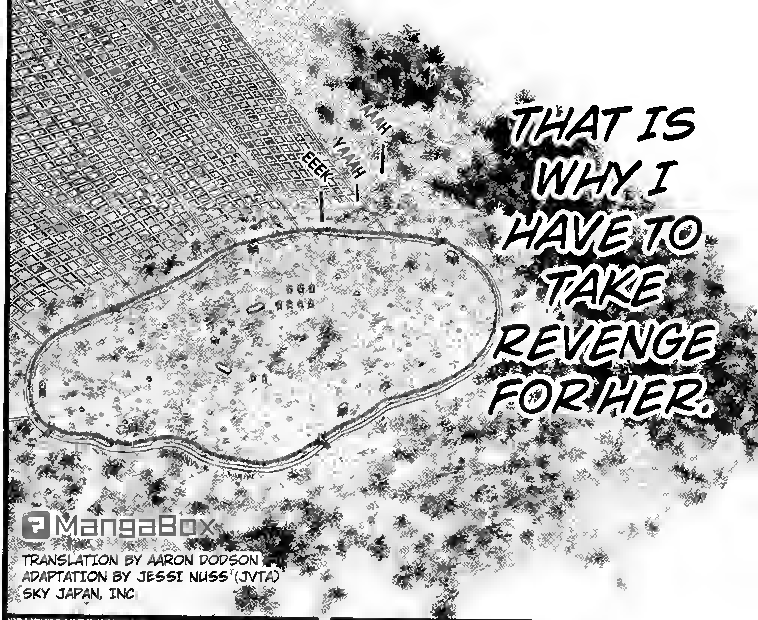

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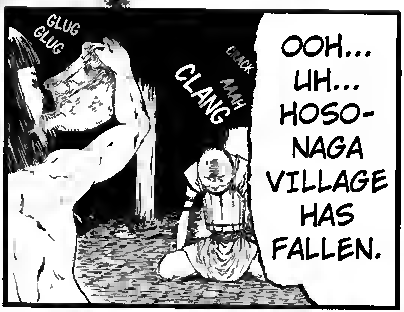
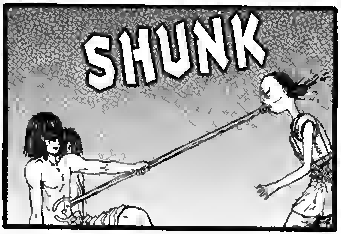
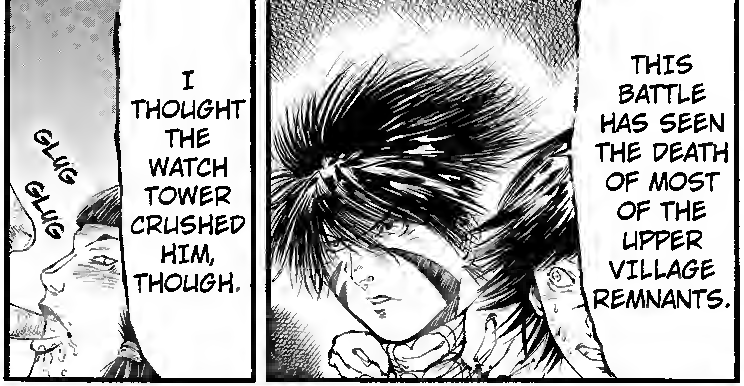
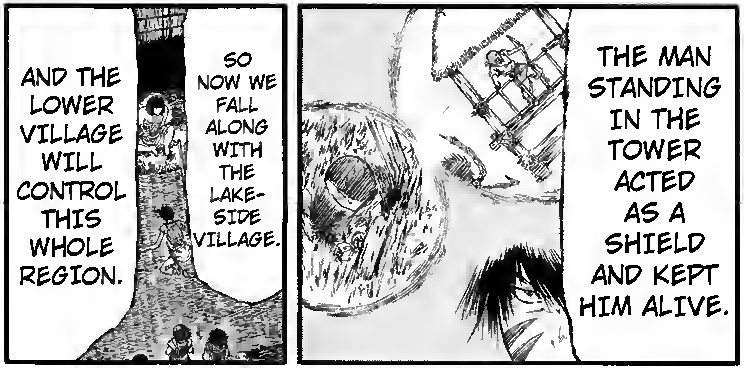


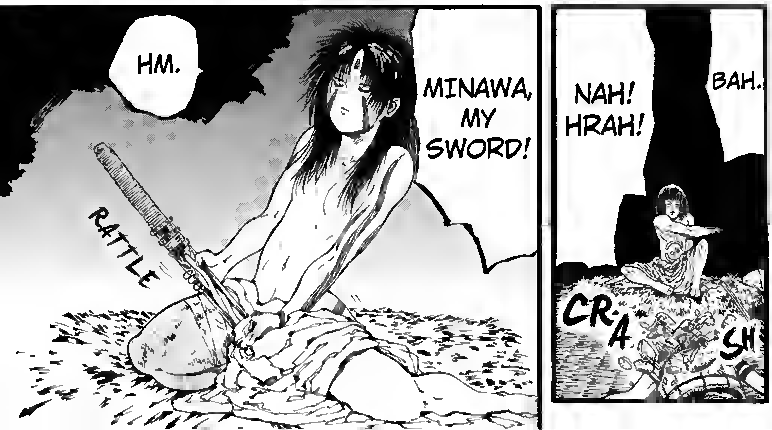


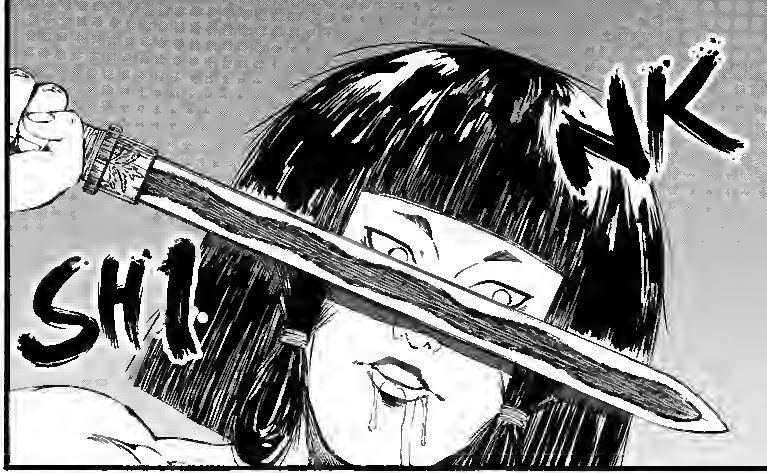
MY BROTHER HAS TRAINED ME.
GLUG
EEK
CLANK
CLANG
THERE YOU ARE.
NOW I WILL HAVE REVENGE FOR MY MOTHER!
IT'S YOU.
OH!
OH.

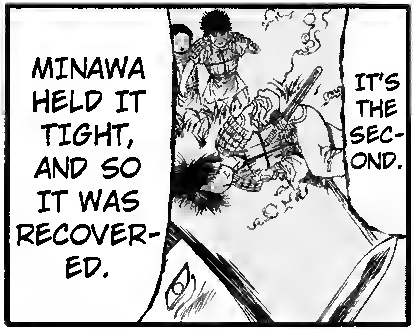
TRAGEDY CAN BREAK A MAN AS WELL AS MAKE HIM STRONGER IT SEEMS.
HA HA HA!
MY MOTHERS ARE GONE, AND I AM USELESS.
I AM A SHELL OF A MAN
AND NOW THE COWARD I LEFT IS HERE IN THE MIDST OF A BATTLE.
BUT MY MIND DOESN'T WORK AS QUICKLY AS IT USED TO.
THE SKILL OF HINO-HOZE HAS BEATEN ME.
AND NOW WE HAVE ALREADY FALLEN.
I FLED THE MOUNTAIN TO THEIR HOME VILLAGE WHERE I AM BESIEGED.
BOOM
CLANG
SLASH
OOOH


GLUG GLUG
I THOUGHT THE WATCH TOWER CRUSHED HIM, THOUGH.
THIS BATTLE HAS SEEN THE DEATH OF MOST OF THE UPPER VILLAGE REMNANTS.

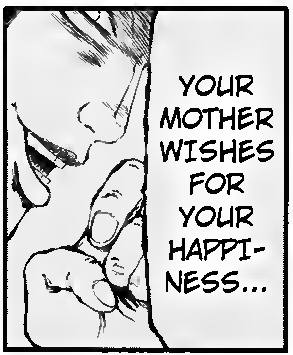

AND THE LOWER VILLAGE WILL CONTROL THIS WHOLE REGION.
SO NOW WE FALL ALONG WITH THE LAKE-SIDE VILLAGE.
THE MAN STANDING IN THE TOWER ACTED AS A SHIELD AND KEPT HIM ALIVE.


HM.
MINAWA, MY SWORD!
RATTLE
NAH! HRAH!
BAH.
CR-A
SH

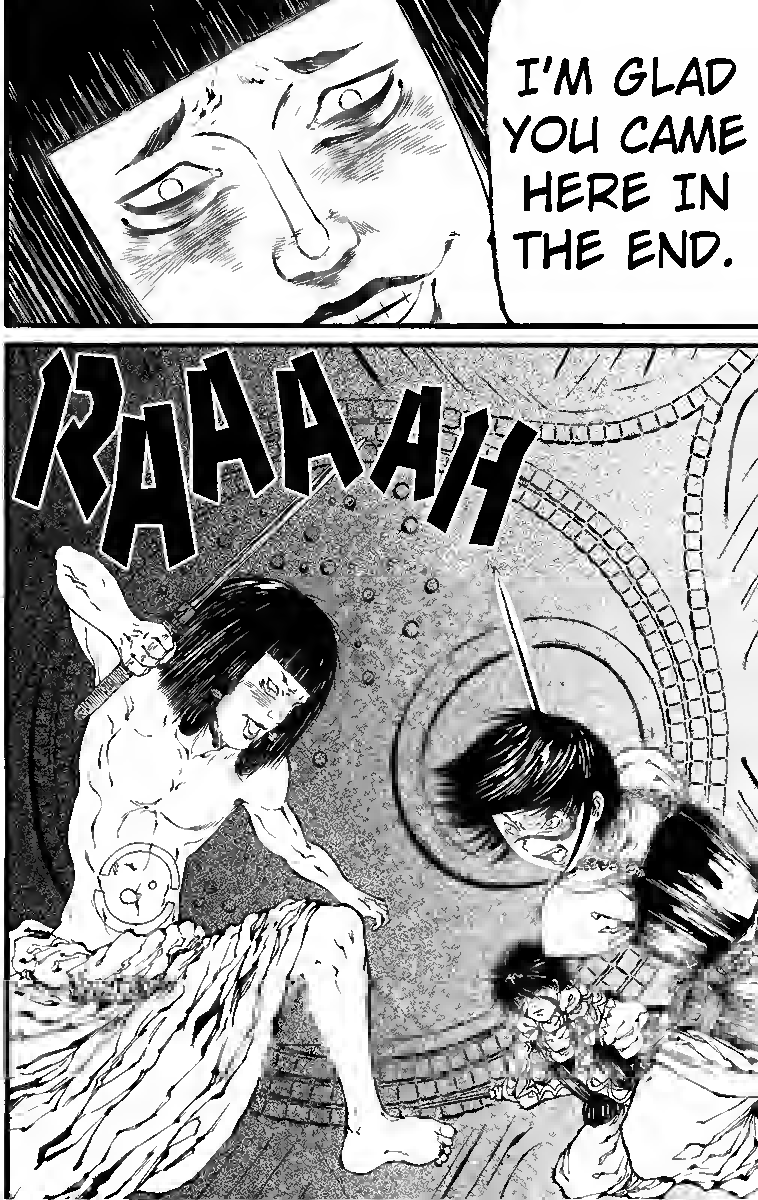

SHI!
GK

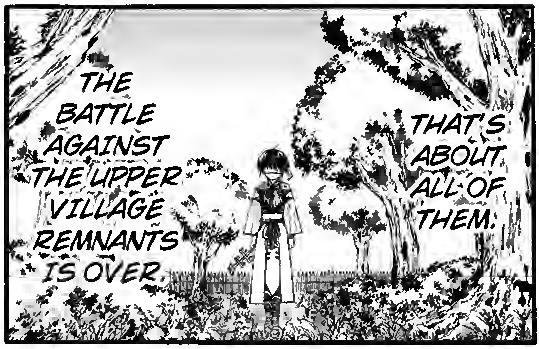

A SUZU-NARI BLADE!
I THOUGHT THE MOUNTAIN TOOK THEM ALL!
IT'S THE SEC-OND.
MINAWA HELD IT TIGHT, AND SO IT WAS RECOVER-ED.

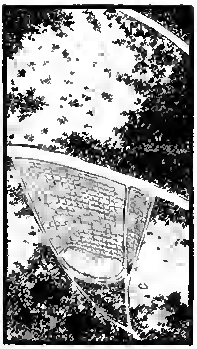
I DO NOT SEEK REVENGE FOR HER HAPPINESS.
I SEEK REVENGE TO END THIS.

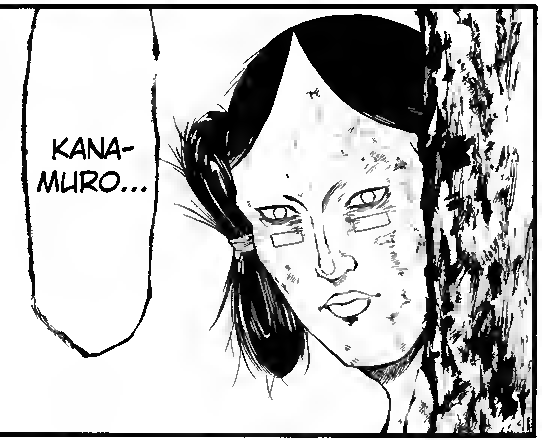

YOUR MOTHER WISHES FOR YOUR HAPPI-NESS...

BUT...
I WILL SEA-RCH FOR THEM.
HIS SWORDS WENT BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN, RIGHT?
WILL THIS...PLEASE AKOYA?
...I CAME HERE!
I'M GLAD ...
...AND YOU COME TO ME TO AVENGE YOUR MOTHER.
MY MOTHERS ARE GONE AND I AM LOST...
AHH. YOUR EYES SAY SO MUCH.

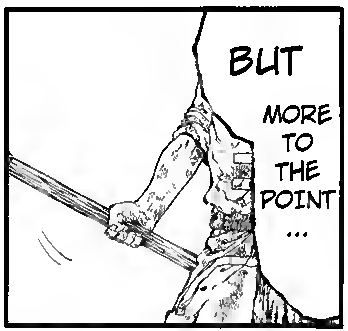

I'M GLAD YOU CAME HERE IN THE END.
RAAAH

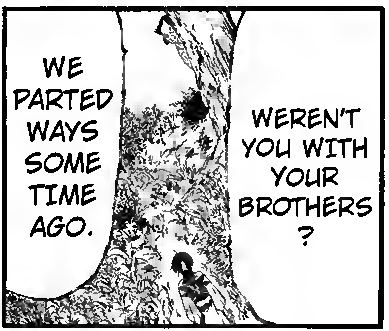

THE BATTLE AGAINST THE UPPER VILLAGE REMNANTS IS OVER.
THAT'S ABOUT ALL OF THEM.

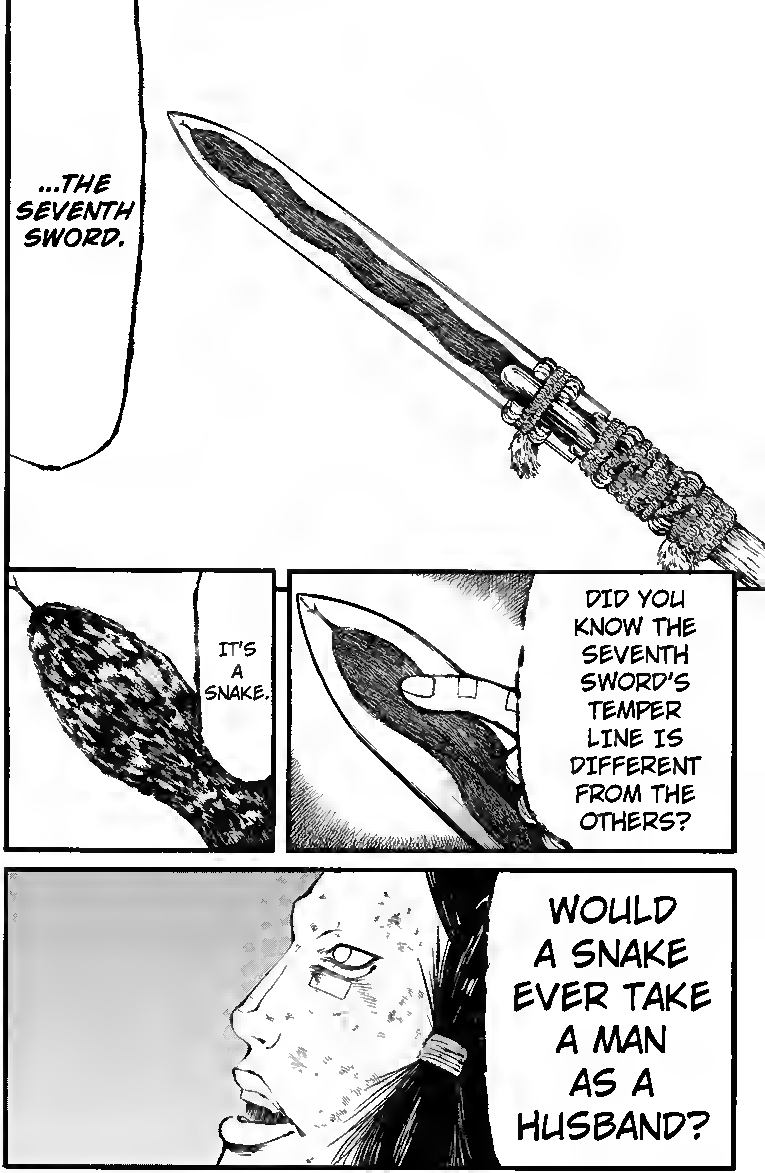



KANA-MURO...

I MUST ASK THE PRIEST-ESS SOME-THING.

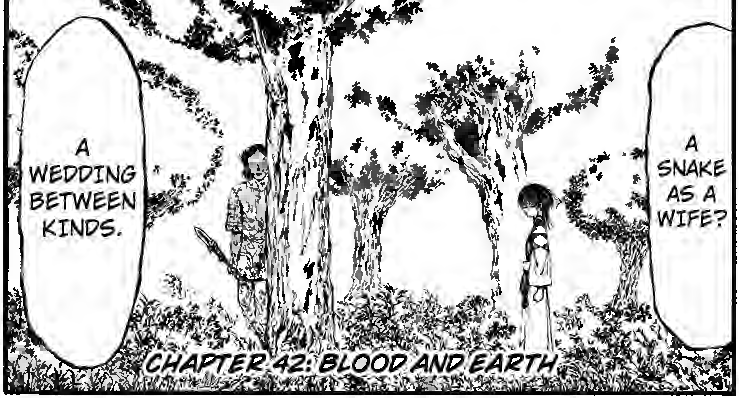

BUT
MORE TO THE POINT ...

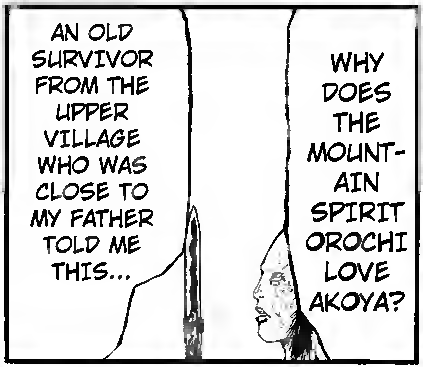

WE PARTED WAYS SOME TIME AGO.
WEREN'T YOU WITH YOUR BROTHERS ?

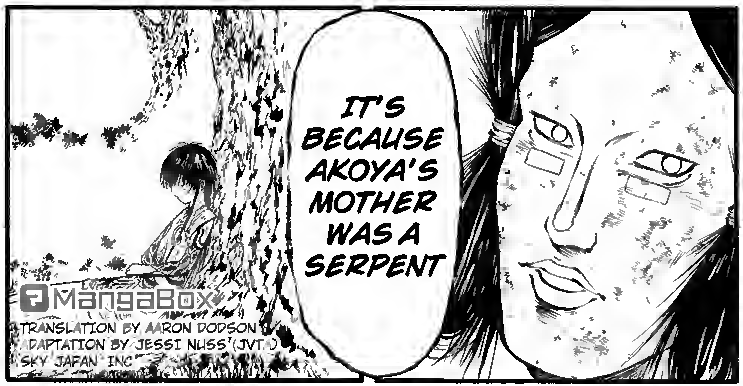

...THE SEVENTH SWORD.
IT'S A SNAKE.
DID YOU KNOW THE SEVENTH SWORD'S TEMPER LINE IS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS?
WOULD A SNAKE EVER TAKE A MAN AS A HUSBAND?

MY STOMACH HURTS.
MY DREAMS LATELY HAVE ALL BEEN ABOUT THE PAST...
...THINGS I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO REMEMBER BEFORE...
...BACK WHEN MOM WAS STILL ALIVE.

THE SCALES ON MY MOTHER'S SERPENTINE BODY...
...LOOKED ALOT LIKE SWORDS.




AN OLD SURVIVOR FROM THE UPPER VILLAGE WHO WAS CLOSE TO MY FATHER TOLD ME THIS...
WHY DOES THE MOUNTAIN SPIRIT OROCHI LOVE AKOYA?



MangaBox
TRANSLATION BY AARON DODSON
ADAPTATION BY JESSI NUSS (JVT)
SKY JAPAN INC.

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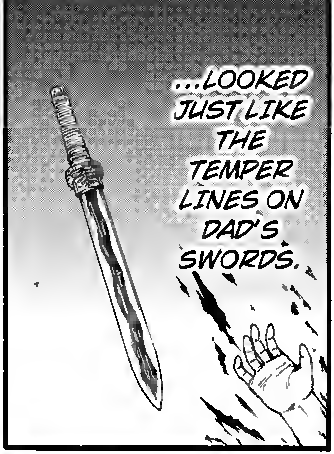
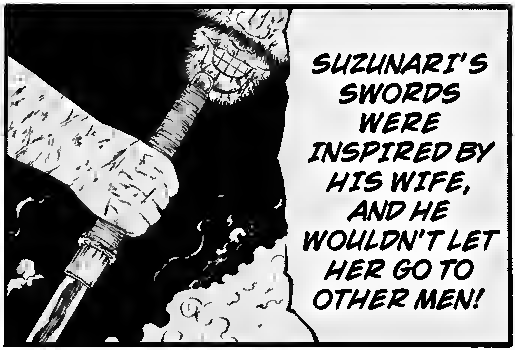
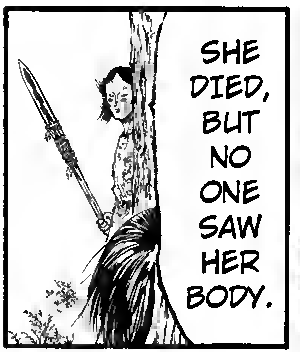
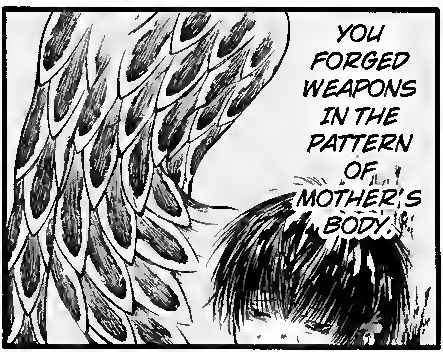

...LOOKED JUST LIKE THE TEMPER LINES ON DAD'S SWORDS.

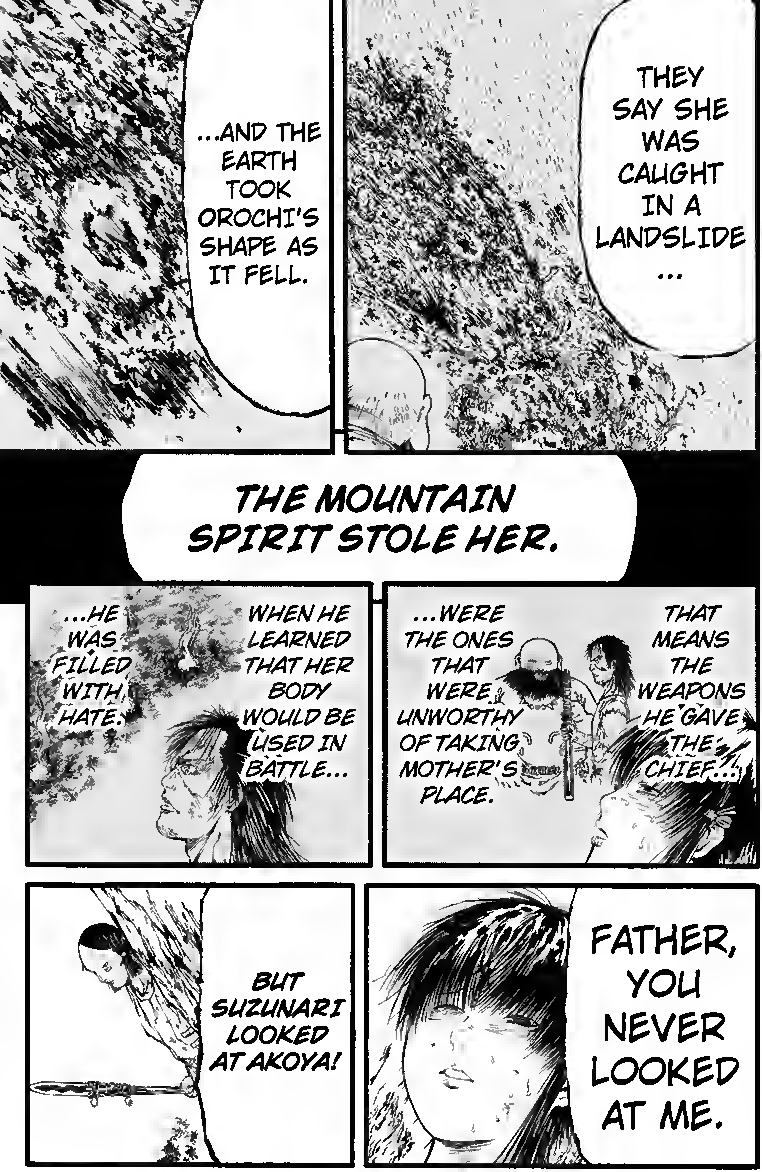
THE PATTERN ON MOTHER'S SCALES...

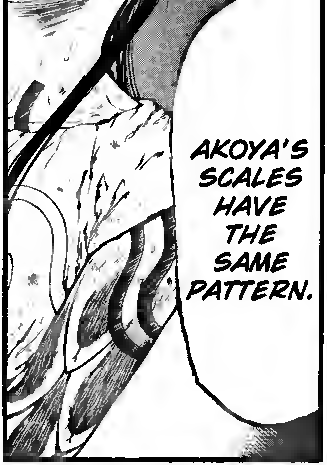
FATHER... AHH...


SUZUNARI'S SWORDS WERE INSPIRED BY HIS WIFE, AND HE WOULDN'T LET HER GO TO OTHER MEN!

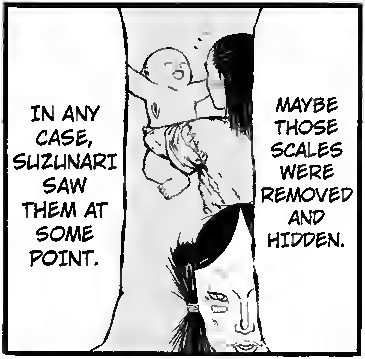

SHE DIED, BUT NO ONE SAW HER BODY.

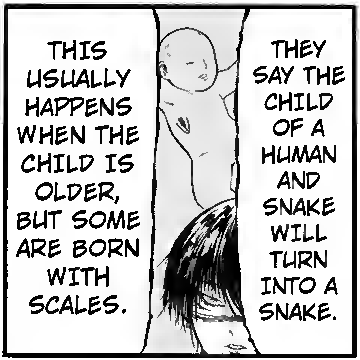

YOU FORGED WEAPONS IN THE PATTERN OF MOTHER'S BODY.

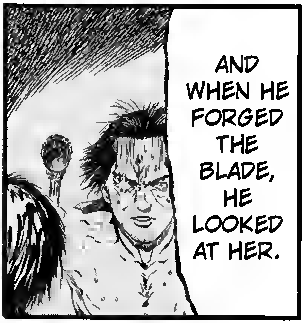

THEY SAY SHE WAS CAUGHT IN A LANDSLIDE ...
...AND THE EARTH TOOK OROCHI'S SHAPE AS IT FELL.
THE MOUNTAIN SPIRIT STOLE HER.
WHEN HE LEARNED THAT HER BODY WOULD BE USED IN BATTLE...
...HE WAS FILLED WITH HATE.
THAT MEANS THE WEAPONS HE GAVE THE CHIEF...
...WERE THE ONES THAT WERE UNWORTHY OF TAKING MOTHER'S PLACE.
FATHER, YOU NEVER LOOKED AT ME.
BUT SUZUNARI LOOKED AT AKOYA!

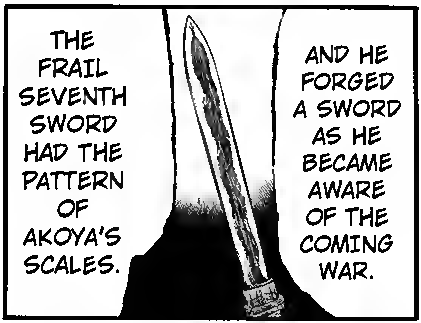

AKOYA'S SCALES HAVE THE SAME PATTERN.

THE SEVENTH SWORD ALONE HAS A TEMPER LINE THAT LOOKS LIKE A SERPENT'S TONGUE.


IN ANY CASE, SUZUNARI SAW THEM AT SOME POINT.
MAYBE THOSE SCALES WERE REMOVED AND HIDDEN.


THIS USUALLY HAPPENS WHEN THE CHILD IS OLDER, BUT SOME ARE BORN WITH SCALES.
THEY SAY THE CHILD OF A HUMAN AND SNAKE WILL TURN INTO A SNAKE.

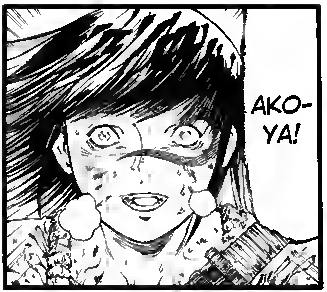

AND WHEN HE FORGED THE BLADE, HE LOOKED AT HER.


THE FRAIL SEVENTH SWORD HAD THE PATTERN OF AKOYA'S SCALES.
AND HE FORGED A SWORD AS HE BECAME AWARE OF THE COMING WAR.

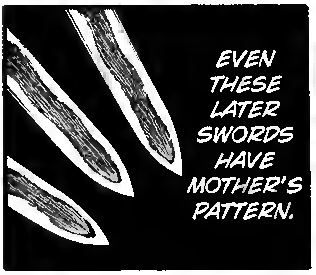
SSSS
S..H
...WHY ARE THEY HERE NOW?
SSS
SS
FATHER'S BLADES THAT WERE SCATTERED ACROSS THE MOUNTAIN...
...THEN MAYBE FATHER DID LOOK AT ME.
IF I AM A SNAKE ...
THEY'RE LIKE A GATHER-ING OF SNAKES.

THE MOUNTAIN SPIRIT HAS NOT TAKEN AKOYA YET!
WHEN WILL IT DO SO?
SPIRITS USUALLY TAKE YOUNG WOMEN WHEN THEY REACH THEIR MENARCHE.
AKOYA HASN'T YET?
MY STOMACH FEELS WEIRD.

THE SPIRIT IS A LECH.
STEALING SNAKE WOMEN THAT ARE MARRIED, AND NOW STEALING HER DAUGHTER NOW THAT SHE IS OLD ENOUGH.
THE MEN ARE BACK FROM BATTLE!
HOORAY!
AH!
AND EVEN IF YOU TRY, THE WIND WON'T LET ANYONE GET NEAR AKOYA.
IF YOU CAN PRAY TO CALM THE WINDS ...
... THEN PRAY!

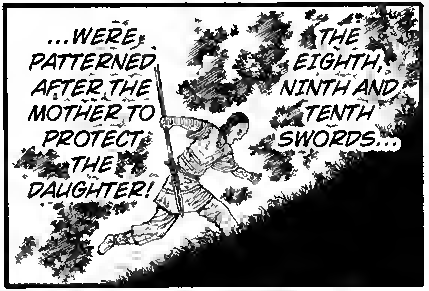

AKO-YA!

PANT
PANT

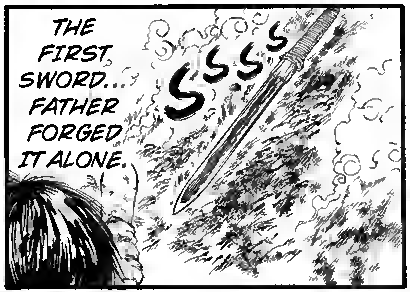

EVEN THESE LATER SWORDS HAVE MOTHER'S PATTERN.

AND NOW THE TENTH SWORD.
NINTH...
THE EIGHTH...

AKO-YAA!


...WERE PATTERNED AFTER THE MOTHER TO PROTECT THE DAUGHTER!
THE EIGHTH, NINTH AND TENTH SWORDS...

AKO-YA!
THE FIRST ONE I HELPED WITH...


THE FIRST SWORD... FATHER FORGED IT ALONE.

I FOUND THE SECOND SWORD!
LET ME HELP!
DAD!
LOOK AT ME!
...HAD MOTHER'S PATTERN.
AND EVEN THAT SWORD...

I DON'T WANT IT ANYMORE.

YOU CAN HAVE IT.
SHOOOM

THE CHRONICLES OF AKOYA

THE END